

KEY STAGE 4: FACULTY OF PERFORMANCE AND EXPRESSIVE ARTS

MUSIC

Teacher in Charge

MR A PILATO

What course do I follow?

GCSE MUSIC: AQA 8271

What will I study?

GCSE Music is all about understanding, performing and composing music, and working towards a professional standard within the music industry. The skills you learn are applied across a wide variety of styles – **Western classical** tradition (1650 – 1910), **Popular** music, **Traditional** music and **Western classical** tradition (since 1910). The timetable will be divided into two sessions for each component, studied over a two-week period. Therefore, you will have two sessions on **music theory**, two sessions on **composing/music production**, and two sessions on **live performance**, each fortnight. Therefore, there are lots of opportunities to take advantage of **music technology** (utilising the iMacs with Logic Pro, Allen & Heath 24 channel mixing desk, the recording studio environment to compose/record your songs to a professional standard) throughout the two years of your study. You will also be able to utilise the practice rooms and hall/stage areas to prepare your performances for final assessment. There will be two annual (in-house) concerts arranged, one at Christmas and one in the Summer to capture your performances in front of an audience, for those who wish to demonstrate excellence in this area.

Details of Examination?

(Worth 40% of the total marks)

There is **one** main examination at the **end of Year 11** (lasting 1 hour & 30 minutes). You will listen to a CD and answer questions on the musical extracts played. There are two sections to the paper, section A and section B. Section A lasts 60 minutes and section B lasts 30 minutes. You will also answer **contextual questions** based on the **styles of music** covered throughout the two-year course (as above).

Details of Coursework

Performing *(Worth 30% of the total marks)*

You will perform **one solo piece** and **one ensemble piece** of your choice. These performances will be recorded and marked and assessed by your teacher and moderated by the **exam board**. Each piece needs to be **90 seconds** in length. Although encouraged, you do **not** need to perform in front of an audience, you only need to perform in front of your teacher, who will be recording the songs for external moderation purposes.

Composing *(Worth 30% of the total marks)*

Students **must** learn how to develop musical ideas and compose music that

**Additional
Information**

is musically convincing through **two** compositions. One must be in response to an **externally set brief** (Composition 1) and the other, a **free composition** (Composition 2). You will be encouraged to use music technology in **composing** and **recording** your original songs e.g., multi-track recordings and printed notated scores. Each composition needs to be **90 seconds** in length, and be recorded into the software **Logic Pro**.

The course also emphasises the importance of **playing music with others**, and participation in **extra-curricular** activities – **song-writing, rock/pop bands, orchestra** and **choir** in and outside of school.

Our instrumental teachers from the **Entrust Music Service** very much support students throughout their course of GCSE music, enabling you to learn your chosen pieces in your **instrumental lessons** with a trained musical tutor. The instrumental lessons are available to you as GCSE music students, however these lessons must be booked and paid for in advance if you wish to take up this offer. Subject to individual pupils' circumstances, you may be offered **funded** instrumental lessons with the Entrust Music Service.

Further information about the music curriculum, our achievements in music this year, as well as our facilities in the music department can be found on the following link.

Music Video – facilities and course details info

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAM3qT19ADo>

Curriculum information

<https://madeleyschool.org/our-curriculum/faculty-of-performance-expressive-arts/music>

For any other queries, or if you would like to talk to the subject leader of music about the course, please contact Mr. Pilato directly via email at ap@madeley.shaw-education.org.uk.



