

GCSE MUSIC



Examination Board: AQA

What is GCSE Music all about?

GCSE Music is about making and listening to music. It covers performing, composing and listening in a wide variety of musical styles - popular music, world music and classical music. There are opportunities to use music technology such as sequencing and recording. The examination board is AQA.

Will I enjoy this course?

You will enjoy this course if you want study that

- involves performing
- involves listening to all kinds of music
- involves composing or arranging music
- gives you the opportunity to play music with others in e.g. rock groups, bands, orchestras or local choirs
- gives you the opportunity to learn more about and use music technology



How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

You will improve your skills in performing and composing different types of music. You will listen to a wide variety of music and learn more about how and why it was written and/or performed.

What about exams?

There is one exam in the summer for listening and appraising, in addition to a short written appraisal on one of your compositions. You will listen to a CD and answer questions on the Areas of Study; these being (1) Rhythm & Metre, (2) Harmony & Tonality, (3) Texture and Melody, (4) Timbre & Dynamics and (5) Structure & Form. Questions will be explored through three different strands: a) The Western Classical Tradition, b) Popular Music and c) World music.



Is there any coursework?

Yes. You will perform one solo and one ensemble performance. The coursework for composing consists of a folio of two compositions. One composition is based on the chosen strand: Western Classical Tradition in which you will have 0 hours of supervised time to complete. You will also have to write an appraisal under examination conditions about your composition. The other composition is a free composition. The performances may take place in the classroom, in school music groups or outside school. You will use the audio-engineering suite to produce your final version.

What other skills might I develop?

As well as covering Music at GCSE level, the course will enable you to develop Key Skills in Communication and Information Technology, which could be useful to you in whatever you do afterwards. In particular, GCSE Music offers opportunities to develop the wider Key skills in working with others (e.g. taking part in rehearsals, performing).



What could I do next with GCSE Music?

GCSE Music is a good preparation for further musical study and a solid foundation for the AS/A Levels in Music and Music Technology, as well as BTEC National Diplomas (in Music, Popular Music and Music Technology) and the new Vocational A-Level in performing Arts. You may wish to take a GCSE in Music for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest. Alternatively, you may wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of music or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in the music industry, publishing, entertainment and teaching or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.