

# Music

## Year 9

In year 9, students build on their musical knowledge from middle school and develop the key musical skills of performing, composing and listening. This is done through a variety of topics, resources, group work and hands on music making. This will provide students with the grounding required for studying music in the future.

The topics studied by year 9 students are:

- **Music Technology** – Students record a pop song in to the music software 'Mixcraft', using MIDI keyboards. They learn how to edit, quantize and remix their recordings.
- **4 Chord Songs** – Students perform on a variety of rock instruments as part of a band. They are given the choice of a number of songs based around a 4 chord sequence.
- **Film Music** – Students compose the soundtrack to a film trailer using 'Mixcraft'.
- **Fusions** – Students compose using world music styles, including Blues and Reggae.
- **In At The Deep End** – Students rehearse as part of a band and self-manage their time, resources and performance. Each band will perform a chosen rock/pop song as part of an end of topic 'Battle of the Bands'.

## GCSE

**GCSE Music** – Edexcel

The study of GCSE Music begins in the final half term of Year 9 and is completed at the end of Year 11.

Students who are currently in year 10 are following the new 9 – 1 specification for Music. The course is built around three components: performing, composing and appraising. The course is outlined below:

### 1. Performing (30% of total marks)

Students perform on a chosen instrument (or sing). The performance can be in any style. Students will record one solo performance and one performance as part of an ensemble. These performances must total a minimum of four minutes.

### 2. Composing (30% of total marks)

Students will compose two pieces of music. Students can compose for any combination of instruments or use ICT including the department's Sibelius and Mixcraft software.

### 3. Appraising (40% of total marks)

Students will complete a listening and written paper based on the pieces of music studied from the four areas of study:

- **Instrumental Music 1700–1820** – *Pathétique* by Beethoven, *Brandenburg Concerto* by Bach
- **Vocal Music** – *Music for a While* by Purcell, *Killer Queen* by Queen
- **Music for Stage and Screen** – *Defying Gravity* from *Wicked*, *Main Title/Rebel Blockade Runner* from *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*
- **Fusions** – *Release* by Afro Celt Sound System, *Samba Em Preludio* by Esperanza Spalding.

You can find more details by following the link:

[Edexcel GCSE Music Home Page](#)

## Post-16

**A level Music** – Edexcel

Year 12 Music Students are currently following the new A Level specification. This is a two year linear course based on the three components of music education: performing, composing and appraising. The course is outlined below:

### 1. Performing (30% of total marks)

Students perform on a chosen instrument (or sing). The performance can be in any style. The recital should be a minimum of 8 minutes in length.

### 2. Composing (30% of total marks)

Students will compose two pieces of music. Students can compose for any combination of instruments or use ICT including the department's Sibelius and Mixcraft software.

#### Composition 1:

- Free composition
  - Or choose a Brief linked to the Areas of Study (set by Edexcel in Sept of Year 2)
- Your composition must be at least 4 minutes in duration.

#### Composition 2:

The second composition must be from a list of briefs assessing technique, of at least one minute in duration. This will be completed under controlled conditions in 6 hours. The four briefs will always include:

- Bach chorale
- Two-part counterpoint
- Arrangement
- Remix

### 3. Appraising (40% of total marks)

Students will complete a listening and written paper based on the pieces of music studied from the six areas of study:

- **Instrumental Music** – *Concerto in D minor* by Vivaldi, *Piano Trio in G minor* by Wieck-Schumann, *Symphonie Fantastique* by Berlioz
- **Vocal Music** – *The Magic Flute* by Mozart, *Ein Feste Burg* by Bach, *On Wenlock Edge* by Vaughan Williams
- **Music for Film** – *The Duchess* by Rachel Portman, *Batman Returns* by Danny Elfman, *Psycho* by Bernard Herrmann
- **Popular Music/Jazz** – *Back in the Day* by Courtney Pine, *Hounds of Love* by Kate Bush, *Revolver* by The Beatles
- **Fusions** – *Caña Quema* by Familia Valera Miranda, *Estampes* by Debussy, *Breathing Under Water* by Anoushka Shankar
- **New Directions** – *Three Dances for Two Prepared Pianos* by Cage, *Petals for Violoncello and Live Electronics* by Kaija Saariaho, *The Rite of Spring* by Stravinsky

You can find more details by following the link:

[Edexcel A Level Music Home Page](#)

**Mr J Szyszlo** – Head of Music

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