

MUSIC GCSE

Examination Board – EDEXCEL

5 periods per 2 weeks

Course Content

Your GCSE music course will consist of three components

GCSE music offers an excellent opportunity to develop your musical skills and interests. You may already be a gifted musician or perhaps you are just beginning to sense what you can achieve in music. The course allows for both of these extremes and all points in between.

A course outline is provided below, but for more details and an insight into what GCSE Music can offer you; please contact Mr Szyszlo or Miss Payne.

1. Performing music (30% of total marks)

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

2. Composing music (30% of total marks)

You will compose two pieces of music. You can compose for any combination of instruments or use ICT including the department's Sibelius and Garageband software on the Macbook pros.

3. Appraising (40% of total marks)

You will complete a listening and written paper based on two pieces you have studied from the four areas of study:

- Instrumental music 1700–1820 – *Pathetique* by Ludwig Van Beethoven, *Brandenburg Concerto* by Johann Sebastian Bach.
- Vocal music – *Music for a While* by Henry Purcell, *Killer Queen* by Queen.
- Music for stage and screen – *Star Wars Main Title and the Rebel Blockade* by John Williams, *Defying Gravity* from *Wicked* by Stephen Schwartz.
- Fusions – *Release* by Afro Celt Sound System, *Samba Em Preludio* by Esperanza Spalding.

Homework

Homework tasks will include the development of performance and composition skills. You will also be required to listen to the set pieces regularly and to do work which helps you to understand their important musical features.

Progression

GCSE music leads naturally in to sixth form study of music, whether that be BTEC or A Level, as the three components of listening, composing and performance remain central to any music study. Studying music can lead to careers in music performing, recording, composition, teaching, arts administration, music therapy and publishing, among many others.