

# 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 ‘ 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 ‘Bat 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 softwa

### 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** – *Pathetique* 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](#)

**Mr J Szyszlo** – Head of Music

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