



Key Stage: 4

Subject: Music

Aims of the subject:

Whether we are listening to our iPods, watching the TV or playing computer games, music is everywhere. Some people really enjoy making music as singers or instrumentalists and some simply enjoy listening to it; however we use music, it plays a big part in our lives.

In Year 9 we offer a foundation year in music history to prepare pupils for GCSE study; this covers a wide range of musical styles and techniques in listening, performing and composing. We also look at the historical context, exploring the purpose of music throughout history.

The course studied in Years 10 and 11 is the Edexcel GCSE Music which is designed to offer you the opportunity to develop your knowledge, understanding and skills in Performing, Composing, Listening and Appraising. There is considerable flexibility in the course, allowing you to follow your own musical interests and aptitudes, including popular as well as classical styles.

The transferable social and personal skills developed through this course are highly valued by employers and universities and, as such, GCSE Music is suitable as a qualification in itself for those people who enjoy music but don't intend to take it further. It is also suitable for those wishing to study music at A level and beyond.

GCSE Examination Board: Edexcel

Year	What will I learn?	Assessment
Year 9	Half term 1: Medieval music Historical context: key dates, events and people Stylistic features The birth of staff notation: neumes, square notation Sacred and secular music: plainchant, dance forms Period instruments Influence in modern music	On-going summary tasks Notation tasks, including transcription Synoptic written paper Performance assessment 1

Year	What will I learn?	Assessment
Year 9 [cont'd]	Half term 2: Renaissance music Historical context: key dates, events and people Stylistic features Word-setting and metre Patronage: sacred and secular The reformation Printing Lute songs Period instruments Influence in modern music	On-going summary tasks Word-setting task Synoptic written paper Performance assessment 2
	Half term 3: Baroque music Historical context: key dates, events and people Stylistic features Keys and chords; four-part harmony Sacred and secular music Passacaglias Continuo Oratorios and operas Johann Sebastian Bach Influence in modern music	On-going summary tasks Harmonic analysis Harmonisation Synoptic written paper Concert review Performance assessment 3
	Half term 4: Classical music Historical context: key dates, events and people Stylistic features Mozart The magic flute The symphony Themes and variations Influence in modern music	On-going summary tasks Structural analysis Synoptic written paper Concert review Performance assessment 4

Year	What will I learn?	Assessment
Year 9 [cont'd]	Half term 5: Romantic music Historical context: key dates, events and people Stylistic features Beethoven Tchaikovsky Programmatic music Die Walküre Nationalism Influence in modern music	On-going summary tasks Synoptic written paper Concert review Performance assessment 5
	Half term 6: Modern music Historical context: key dates, events and people Split of genres: classical/popular (introduction of the microphone) Elvis Presley Film music 'Isms': Serialism, Minimalism, Expressionism Jazz Stravinsky Cage Schoenberg Messiaen Music technology	On-going summary tasks Synoptic written paper Performance assessment 6
Year 10	Half term 1: Introduction to GCSE music Music theory basics Musicianship through singing Performance skills Using Sibelius	Music theory test Aural test Performance assessment 1
	Half term 2: Composition 1 Keys and chords Theme and variations Choosing a theme Harmonising a melody in a major key Melodic decoration	On-going controlled assessment Music theory test

Year	What will I learn?	Assessment
Year 10 [cont'd]	Half term 3: Composition 1 [cont'd] Metric modulation Related keys Fragmented variations Half term 1: Music for stage and screen (AoS3) <i>Defying Gravity</i> (Schwartz) <i>Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope, Main title</i> (Williams)	On-going controlled assessment First draft due by half term Essay tasks (exam questions) Mock paper Performance assessment 2
	Half term 4: Composition 1 [cont'd] Typesetting, refining	On-going controlled assessment Final scores handed in
	Half term 5: Fusions (AoS4) <i>Release</i> (Afro Celt Sound System) <i>Samba Em Preludio</i> (Esperanza Spalding)	Essay tasks (exam questions) Mock paper
	Half term 6: Ensemble performance Performance workshops Revision of content from Year 10	Performance assessment 3 (Ensembles) Synoptic paper
Year 11	Half term 1: Composition 2 Responding to a brief Choosing a composition task Composition workshops Half term 1: Instrumental music 1700-1820 (AoS1) <i>Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 in D, Mvt 3</i> (Bach) <i>Piano Sonata no. 8 in C minor, Mvt 1</i> (Beethoven)	On-going controlled assessment Essay tasks (exam questions) Mock paper Performance assessment 1
	Half term 2: Composition 2 On-going controlled assessment Half term 2: Vocal music (AoS2) <i>Music for a while</i> (Purcell) <i>Killer Queen</i> (Queen)	On-going controlled assessment First draft due by Christmas Essay tasks (exam questions) Mock paper Performance assessment 2

Year	What will I learn?	Assessment
Year 11 [cont'd]	Half term 3: Yr 10 set works recap Music for stage and screen (AoS3) [recap.] <i>Defying Gravity</i> (Schwartz) <i>Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope, Main title</i> (Williams) Instrumental music 1700-1820 (AoS1) [recap.] <i>Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 in D, Mvt 3</i> (Bach) <i>Piano Sonata no. 8 in C minor, Mvt 1</i> (Beethoven)	Essay tasks (exam questions) Mock paper Aural skills test Essay tasks (exam questions) Mock paper Aural skills test AoS3 & AoS4 test Solo performance recitals
	Half term 4: Exam technique Recap. of all areas of study Unheard listening tasks	Essay tasks (exam questions) Aural skills test Synoptic test Mock exam Ensemble performance recitals
	Half term 5: Exam revision	

Extra-curricular opportunities

Department ensembles: Upper school choir; auditioned chapel choir; theory group; orchestra; concert band; brass group.
 Peripatetic lessons: One-to-one tuition is available in school [speak to Mr Gillthorpe or Miss Burtonwood].

How you can support your child's progress

Encourage regular practice every day – it is essential that they are receiving regular one-to-one tuition on an instrument (or singing). Websites such as www.musictheory.net and iPhone/iPad apps such as Tenuto or the ABRSM aural trainer are particularly useful. The Rhinegold Edexcel GCSE music revision guide is the best available.