



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 9	What will I learn?			
Half term	Theory	Composition	Performance	Assessment
1: Rhythm	ABRSM rhythm (Gds 1-5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time signatures - Note lengths - Devices - Notations - Beaming - Triplets 	Rhythmic composition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Polyrhythms - Texture - Layering - Phasing - Logic/Garageband loops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steve Reich's Clapping music - Anna Meredith's Connect It - Samba music - African drumming - Chair drumming - Body percussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance assessment at the end of the half term. - End of unit theory test.
2: Melody	ABRSM melody (Gds 1-5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conjunct/disjunct - Scales - Modes - Harmony/non-harmony notes - Intervals - Decoration 	Melodic compositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rounds/Canons - Folksong - Work-songs/shanties/spirituals - Folk melodies (class Ceilidh band?) - Nursery rhymes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance assessment at the end of the half term. - End of unit theory test.
3: Harmony	ABRSM harmony (Gds 1-5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Triads - Cadences - Progressions - Transposition - Circle of fifths - Key signatures 	Harmonisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harmonising melodies in a major key - Deriving a melody from a chord sequence - Writing a counter-melody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two-part songs - Three-part songs - Chorales/hymns - Barbershop/close harmony singing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance assessment at the end of the half term. - End of unit theory test.

YEAR 9		What will I learn?		
Half term	Theory	Composition	Performance	Assessment
4: Texture & timbre	Instruments of the orchestra <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes throughout history - Layout - Different formations 	Music for computer games: sounds to represent actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Success - Failure - Complete level - Collect token - Boost - Time running out - Leitmotifs - Articulation 	Film music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis - Music to convey mood/emotion - Diegetic/non-diegetic sound - Film composition (practical, not computer-based) - Leitmotifs - Dynamics - Effects - Sonority - SET WORK: Star Wars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance assessment at the end of the half term. - End of unit theory test.
5. Set works and music theory	Grade 5 theory past papers Any entries from pupils wishing to take a theory exam.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SET WORK: Defying Gravity - SET WORK: Killer Queen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SET WORK: Afro-celt sound system - SET WORK: Samba em preludio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance assessment at the end of the half term. - End of unit theory test. - Synoptic test for each set work.
6: Ensemble performances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils divided into ensembles - Working towards performances for Open Evening 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensemble performance assessment - Year 9 end of year test: theory and set works.

YEAR 10		What will I learn?		
Half term	Composition	Set works	Theory & aural	Assessment
1: Instrumental music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scales and chords - Harmonisation using Primary triads - Cadences - Secondary triads <p>Theme and Variations composition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choosing a melody - Harmonising the melody using block chords - Melodic decoration - Piano textures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baroque stylistic features (instrumental) - Classical/Early Romantic stylistic features (instrumental) - SET WORK: Brandenburg - SET WORK: Pathetique - Wider listening from the periods 	<p>ABRSM harmony (Gds 1-5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Triads - Cadences - Progressions - Transposition - Circle of fifths - Key signatures - Modulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synoptic test for each set work - End of unit theory and aural test
2: Vocal music	<p>Theme and Variations composition (cont'd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minor variation - Metric modulation - Fragmented variation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baroque stylistic features (vocal) - Pop and rock stylistic features (vocal) - SET WORK: Music for a while - SET WORK: Killer Queen - Wider listening from the periods 	<p>ABRSM melody (Gds 1-5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conjunct/disjunct - Scales - Modes - Harmony/non-harmony notes - Intervals - Decoration - Dictation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First full draft of composition due by the end of term. - Synoptic test for each set work. - End of unit theory and aural test, including melodic dictation.

YEAR 10		What will I learn?		
Half term	Composition	Set works	Theory & aural	Assessment
3: Music for stage and screen	Theme and Variations composition (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responding to feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Musical theatre stylistic features - Film music stylistic features - SET WORK: Defying gravity - SET WORK: Star Wars - Wider listening from the styles 	ABRSM rhythm (Gds 1-5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time signatures - Note lengths - Devices - Notations - Beaming - Triplets - Dictation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theme and Variations composition completed by half term. - Synoptic test for each set work. - End of unit theory and aural test, including rhythmic dictation.
4: Fusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post-tonal writing - Schoenberg and Serialism - Programmatic music Serialist composition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborative brief analysis - Wider listening relating to briefs - Instrument-specific effects and techniques - Self-scaffolding (pre-planning) - Composition planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electronic music stylistic features - World music stylistic features - Latin and jazz stylistic features - SET WORK: Afro-celt sound system - SET WORK: Samba em preludio - Wider listening from the styles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Added-note harmony - Jazz chords - Latin rhythms - Modes - Dictation (rhythmic, melodic, harmonic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synoptic test for each set work. - End of unit theory test.
5	Serialism composition (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-going composition work 	Exam practice (set works)	Exam practice (aural)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year 10 mock exam (set works and theory). - First full draft of composition due by the end of term.
6	ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open Evening solo and ensemble performances (with video review).

YEAR 11		What will I learn?		
Half term	Theory & aural	Set works	Composition	Assessment
1	ABRSM melody (Gds 1-5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conjunct/disjunct - Scales - Modes - Harmony/non-harmony notes - Intervals - Decoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electronic music stylistic features - World music stylistic features - Latin and jazz stylistic features - SET WORK: Afro-celt sound system - SET WORK: Samba em prelude - Wider listening from the styles 	Set brief composition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborative brief analysis - Wider listening relating to briefs - Choosing a brief - Self-scaffolding (pre-planning) - Composition planning - More complex chord sequences - Tonality/modality - Successful melody-writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - End of unit theory test. - Synoptic test for each set work.
2	ABRSM harmony (Gds 1-5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Triads - Cadences - Progressions - Transposition - Circle of fifths - Key signatures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baroque stylistic features (instrumental) - Classical/Early Romantic stylistic features (instrumental) - SET WORK: Brandenburg - SET WORK: Pathetique - Wider listening from the periods 	Set brief composition (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-going composition work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - End of unit theory test. - Synoptic test for each set work. - First full draft of composition due by the end of term.
3	ABRSM rhythm (Gds 1-5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time signatures - Note lengths - Devices - Notations - Beaming - Triplets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baroque stylistic features (vocal) - Pop and rock stylistic features (vocal) - SET WORK: Music for a while - SET WORK: Killer Queen - Wider listening from the periods 	Set brief composition (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responding to feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - End of unit theory test. - Synoptic test for each set work. - Composition 2 complete by half term.

YEAR 11	What will I learn?			
Half term	Theory & aural	Set works	Composition	Assessment
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Melodic dictation - Rhythmic dictation - Mock exam questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Musical theatre stylistic features - Film music stylistic features - SET WORK: Defying gravity - SET WORK: Star Wars - Wider listening from the styles 	Exam practice (theory and aural)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synoptic test for each set work - Year 11 mock exam
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mock exam questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mock exam questions 	Exam practice (theory and aural)	

Co-curricular opportunities

Department ensembles: Upper school choir; auditioned chapel choir; senior girls' choir; junior girls' choir; junior boys choir; theory group; school band; concert band; jazz band; junior jazz band; brass group; percussion ensemble; clarinet ensemble; string group.

Peripatetic lessons: One-to-one tuition is available in school (speak to Mr Gillthorpe or Dr Allcock).

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.