

MUSIC

GCSE



Examination Board: Edexcel
Subject Leader(s): Mr R Lawson, Miss L Simpson



Course Structure

Unit	Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting(%)
1	Performing Music	Coursework	30%
2	Composing Music	Coursework	30%
3	Listening and Appraising	Written Examination	40%

What does the course involve?

GCSE Music involves performance, composition and analysis and covers a wide variety of musical styles. The course can be accessed with various musical abilities – singing or instrumental skill and a genuine interest in music. GCSE Music is both practical and analytical and lessons involve a mixture of individual and group work.

Performance: students will each record a solo and an ensemble performance. This may be performed on any instrument/voice and in any style. The standard level for GCSE is Grade 4 or equivalent, although it is possible to succeed at a lower level.

Composition: students also compose two pieces of music individually. These can be created on the computers or played live.

Listening and appraising: much lesson time is spent analysing eight set works. These pieces span a range of genres – from the Star Wars soundtrack, to a Bach Concerto, to the song Defying Gravity from the musical Wicked.

Further Study/Employment Prospects

GCSE Music leads to a wide range of career options, university and college courses. The course is rated highly by Universities and Colleges. If you would like to perform in an orchestra or a rock band, GCSE Music provides the opportunity to develop your performance skills. If you like writing songs, or composing music for films, dance tracks or in any genre, you will have the opportunity to develop your compositional skills. If you are more interested in the technical side of music production, such as working in a studio, or as a stage manager or promoter, the course will develop the appropriate skills and potentially lead you to an A Level Music Technology course.

Skills you will develop

- Performance
- Composition
- Analytical skills
- Team work
- Project management
- Essay writing
- Listening
- Creativity
- Communication
- Confidence
- Awareness of different musical styles
- Awareness of different cultures