

COURSE GUIDE - MUSIC

WHAT IS MUSIC?

- Do you play a musical instrument?
- Do you enjoy listening to music?
- Do you enjoy creating music?
- Do you enjoy learning about how music has developed?
- Do you enjoy learning about how your favourite artists became successful within the music industry?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions then taking Music in Year 10 could be a great choice for you.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The GCSE course is made up of three areas:

1. Performance (30%) – You develop your performance skills on an instrument of your choice, and you submit one solo performance and one ensemble performance. You get to choose what music and styles you play.
2. Composing (30%) – You learn how to create and develop your own musical ideas into full compositions. You do two compositions, and you have a large amount of choice in the styles you write in.
3. Listening & Appraising (40%) – In this examined unit you look at how music has developed and evolved from 1700 right up until the present day. You look at famous instrumental music by composers such as Bach and Beethoven. You study vocal music, looking at acts like Queen. You look at Music for Stage and Screen, looking at songs from Wicked and Star Wars, and you look at Fusions, where different styles of music have been blended together to create new musical forms such as Dance Music.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The Performance and Composing modules are completed in school and assessed by your teacher. The Listening and Appraising module is assessed through one exam at the end of Year 11.

HOW CAN I PROGRESS?

Both qualifications enable you to study Music at either A-Level or BTEC Level 3 at Sixth Form or college. As well as careers involving music (performer, composer, music engineer, music technician, music technology specialist, recording studio work etc), both qualifications demonstrate to employers and colleges that you are creative, that you have perseverance, that you can work individually as well as part of a team, and that you are good at problem solving.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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