

“Music is a universal language. It is everywhere. A love of music makes you part of one of the most diverse communities, that spans the entire planet. Most of all, it lets you be yourself.”



WHY CHOOSE MUSIC ?

Music is a mainly practical subject that allows you to explore your creative side, in a way that suits you. As a performer, you will gain in confidence, whilst as a composer, you have the chance to explore new ideas.

You will learn about a wide variety of traditions and cultures from around the world, looking at how music has developed through time and with technology.

If you have a love of music, this course is for you!

HOW WILL MUSIC HELP ME? WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Music helps young people to harness their creativity, whilst developing confidence and character. You will have experiences of working independently and with others, developing your interpersonal skills.

Universities and colleges see a Music qualification as a very positive attribute. Your involvement in a creative subject may put you ahead of someone else when it comes to competing for jobs, even outside of the creative sector.

There is strong evidence to suggest that young musicians are more likely to achieve highly in other GCSE subjects too, as they develop a disciplined approach to their own learning.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE? WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course is made up of three components; Performance, Composition and Listening & Appraising.

You will study at least one instrument of your choice (which could be voice), both in class time and once a week with a visiting expert tutor.

You will explore other instruments and music technology as part of the Composition component, where you will create your own original pieces of music.

The Listening & Appraising component is made up of four Areas of Study; Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music and Popular Music.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Performance: includes a weekly one-to-one lesson with a visiting expert tutor for your instrument. There will be independent practice time, in-class group work and extra-curricular opportunities.

Composition: lessons on song writing and composing in different styles, workshops using music technology, independent and collaborative composition time during lessons.

Listening & Appraising: You will study two prepared extracts, which are two pieces of music that will definitely appear on the written examination. These are 'Africa' by Toto and 'Badinerie' by Bach.

You will study a large selection of other pieces of music from across different eras of music and through different styles, by completing small listening projects in class.

There will be homework set on wider listening, to help you expand your knowledge in preparation for the listening exam.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- ✓ Performance - 30%
One solo and one ensemble performance on your chosen instrument, recorded and submitted during Year 11 for internal marking and external moderation.
- ✓ Composition - 30%
Two original compositions, written and submitted during Year 11 for internal marking and external moderation.
One is 'free choice' and one is following a brief set by the exam board.
- ✓ Listening & Appraising - 40%
One written examination lasting approximately 1hr and 15 minutes.
- ✓ The exam is taken in the summer of Year 11.
- ✓ The exam has two questions on music that you will have studied beforehand (known as prepared extracts), which account for 25% of the available marks.

HOW CAN I PROGRESS?

Becoming a star performer is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to a career in music. Managers, producers, radio presenters, songwriters and composers are some of the highest earning individuals in the music industry.

Alternative performance roles include working as a session musician or backing musician to support other performers, which may be ideal for those who excel in their instrument but want to stay out of the limelight.

Performance roles span all genres, from orchestral players, musical theatre performers, to rock and pop. Travelling the world as a performer is an extremely rewarding career and there are multiple opportunities for this through links between music and the tourism industry.

There are also thousands of roles behind the scenes, from working in music production in recording studios, to sound and lighting engineers for concerts, stage managers, events planning careers and much more.