



MUSIC

Entry Requirement: GCSE Music is an important gateway to this course. Students who did not take GCSE Music may be considered so long as they already play a musical instrument (Grade 4 by the beginning of the Lower Sixth) and are able to read music.

Examination Board: AQA 7272

This course is designed to provide clear progression from the interrelated skills developed at Key Stage 3 and GCSE: performing, composing, listening and appraising. It allows access for all musicians and provides opportunities to study a range of musical styles.

Course Content and Assessment

Examination (2 ½ hours)

Component 1: Appraising Music (40%)

- Listening: aural identification of key features based on three areas of study, including excerpts of unfamiliar music
- Analysis: identification and analysis of musical features from set works (Area of Study 1 Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910)
- Essay: one essay from one other Area of Study which includes discussion and analysis of pieces by named composers/ artists

Non-Examined Assessment

Component 2: Performing Music (35%)

- A 10-12 minute performance on any instrument/voice as soloist and/or as part of an ensemble
- Music can be in any style
- This must be completed between 1 March and 31 May of the year of certification

Component 3: Composing (25%)

- Two compositions 4½ – 6 minutes in total
- Composition 1: to a set brief (Bach chorales)
- Composition 2: free composition

All components are externally marked by AQA examiners.

Teaching and Learning Methods

- Students learn to evaluate and appraise their own and each others' work in all areas of the course
- Performance lessons are practically-based
- Other aspects of the course are approached through a variety of methods, many of which are practical and include performing, composing, listening, appraising and writing about music

Homework

- Regular practice is essential in preparation for the performing aspect of the course
- Written and practical exercises are set in order to further and extend learning
- Students will need to become familiar with set works through both listening and score study
- Students should also listen to a wide variety of music in order to become familiar with characteristics of style
- It is important that preparation for controlled assessment tasks is undertaken outside of lessons

Complementary Subjects

Music and **Music Technology** are different courses with separate content, although some of the content is related and complementary. Many students choose to do both of these courses.

Trips and Visits

- Free tickets for professional concerts are available to students
- Workshop and conference opportunities are offered by the county music service
- Most students are involved in extra-curricular music ensembles and are involved in performance opportunities both within and outside school

Key Features

- Exploration of a wide variety of musical styles
- Emphasis on a wide range of practical work
- Develop practical skills in music-making activities, including performing (solo/ensemble/improvising), composing and aural analysis
- Career opportunities: performer, composer, conductor, teaching, music therapy, arts administration, music journalism.