

Aims of the Course

- Extend the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to communicate through music and take part in music making.
- Engage in and extend their appreciation of the diverse and dynamic heritage of music, promoting spiritual and culture development.
- Develop particular strengths and interests encouraging life-long learning and providing access to music related careers.

Types of Learning Experience:

Solo and ensemble performances are assessed in Unit 1 and 4 but are likely to take place right across the course. The majority of the work is based around practical tasks that often incorporate integrated activities based around performing, composing and listening. Some research and study is necessary in certain areas of particular styles of music with emphasis on what you hear and see rather than historical content.

Link Subjects:

Music may be taken in conjunction with any other subject.

Progressing to Higher Education:

An A Level in music is desirable in order to gain entry to university or music college in order to obtain a qualification for a career in music or the performing arts.

Careers:

The disciplined and self-disciplined nature of the study of music makes musicians highly sought after for a wide ranging variety of careers. However, it is very relevant to the careers involving the performing arts, music therapy, teaching and the commercial music business throughout the world.

Unit 1

Performing 30%

Performance can be playing or singing solo, in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music using music technology. The total performance time across all pieces must be a minimum of 8 minutes. By the end of Year 13 students should be performing pieces of about Grade 7 standard.

Unit 2

Composing 30%

Total of two compositions, one to a brief set by the board and one either free composition or also to a brief. Total time across both submissions must be a minimum of 6 minutes.

Unit 3

Appraising 40%

Development of aural perception of various styles of music. They study of a variety of music genres including vocal, instrumental, film, jazz and popular styles, fusions and New Directions. Along with application of historical knowledge to unfamiliar works.

Assessment:

1. Listening examination: Areas of Study and Dictation
2. Extended response: Two essay questions—essay one (20 marks) and essay two (30 marks). Both based on set works.

Entry requirements:

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English and Maths. Performance standard needs to be around Grade 5 and a Grade 4 in GCSE Music is preferred but not essential. Music theory is important too, and you should aim to be around Grade 5 theory standard at the start of the course.

