

Music GCSE Curriculum



Years 10 and 11			
	Performing	Composing	Appraising
Content: What will students know	Students will improve their understanding of their own instrument/voice. They will understand how to control the techniques required for their instrument, and will improve their accuracy and fluency as a performer on that instrument. Through performing different repertoire, students will encounter new composers and different styles of music.	Students will know how to write for different ensembles of instruments. They will know how to use a variety of different music programs to create their music. They will understand how to compose to meet a brief.	Students will study 8 set works by the following composers/musicians: Bach, Beethoven, Purcell, Queen, Williams, Schwartz, Spalding, Afro Celt Soundsystem. Students will develop their understanding of the musical and historical context of these composers, and will understand the musical elements specific to the set works. Students will also need to be familiar with the general features of each genre of music in order to be able to apply it to unfamiliar pieces.
Skills: What will students be able to do	Students will gain technical skills specific to their instrument/voice. They will also refine skills such as note reading, performing as part of an ensemble and live performance.	Students will develop the skills required to create interesting melodies, harmonies and rhythms, to write well for different instruments, and to manipulate the musical elements to create a variety of different moods and styles within their music.	Students will be able to listen to both familiar and unfamiliar pieces of music, and identify key musical elements within the music. They should be able to do this aurally as well as through the use of musical scores. Students will be able to write concisely to compare and analyse pieces of music.
Other: Literacy/ Numeracy/ Ethos	Students will develop self-confidence through live performance in front of staff and peers. They will also develop their musical literacy.	Most students will use some form of music technology in order to create and record their compositions.	Literacy - essay writing skills. Historical understanding of the context surrounding different composers.
Assessment:	Students will submit one solo performance and one ensemble performance by the end of the GCSE course. The final performances must take place in year 11. However, students will undertake performances throughout years 10 and 11, which will be marked by their teacher, in order to understand how best to improve their performing skills in preparation for their final performances. These performances will be marked by teachers and moderated by the exam board.	Students will submit one free composition and one composition written to an exam board brief. These compositions will mostly be completed during lesson time, although students can work on these beyond the classroom. During year 10, the class will start with some shorter and more structured composition tasks in order to build the skills required for a full length composition. These compositions will be marked by teachers and moderated by the exam board.	This element of the course is assessed through a listening exam. During the exam, students will hear excerpts of music - some familiar and some unfamiliar - they will answer questions on the musical elements heard within these pieces. They will write an essay to compare one familiar piece with one unfamiliar piece.