

MUSIC

What is involved?

GCSE Music is a practical subject in which students perform on an instrument of their choice. The course covers performing, composing and listening to a wide variety of musical styles - popular music, world music and classical music.

Is there any controlled assessment? - 60% of the course

Yes. You will need to perform two pieces. One of the pieces will be a solo and one will be an ensemble. These performances may take place in the classroom, in school music groups, or outside school. They will be recorded and marked by your teacher.

You will also compose two pieces, one of which you may choose the style and another is according to a brief written by the exam board.

In order to do this course, you must be able to play an instrument or sing. You must undertake lessons with an instrumental teacher; these can be arranged once the course starts if necessary.

How will I be working?

Music is primarily a practical subject, so the majority of lessons will be spent on solo and group work, refining performance skills and composing techniques.

Theory sessions will be spent studying the study works chosen by the exam board, and practicing listening and appraising skills.

Will I enjoy this course?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:

- involves performing;
- involves listening to all kinds of music;
- involves composing or arranging music;
- gives you the opportunity to play music with others in e.g. bands, orchestras or choirs;
- gives you the opportunity to learn more about and use music technology.

What could I do next with GCSE Music?

GCSE Music is good preparation for further musical study and a solid foundation for the AS/A Levels in Music. You may wish to take Music for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest.

Alternatively, you may wish to go into a career where it is useful to have had experience of music of where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in the Music industry, publishing, entertainment and teaching or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.

How will my final grade be decided?

Component 1: Understanding music	40% assessed by the exam board. Section A- listening- unfamiliar music Section B- study pieces
Component 2: Performing music	30% assessed in school 1 solo performance 1 group performance
Component 3: Composing music	30% assessed in school Composition 1- Composing to a brief Composition 2- Free choice

For more information, speak to Mr Harper or email jonathan.harper@taw.org.uk