

OPTIONS COURSE

MUSIC

ACCREDITING AUTHORITY | OCR

QUALIFICATION

GCSE

FACULTY

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & PERFORMING ARTS

STAFF CONTACT

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WHAT QUALITIES & SKILLS DO I NEED?

Level 6 at KS3. Pupils must play an instrument or sing. They won't necessarily have had formal lessons, but PERFORMING IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE COURSE and instrumental lessons are highly advisable to access higher grades if undertaking GCSE Music.

COURSE FOLLOWED

[Music](#)

HOW IS THE COURSE ORGANISED & ASSESSED?

The five Areas of Study are:

AOS 1: My Music. How to compose for, and perform on, your chosen instrument/voice.

AOS 2: The Concerto through Time. Learn about The Concerto and its development from 1650 to 1910.

AOS 3: Rhythms of the World. Focusing on the traditional rhythmic roots from four geographical regions of the world: India and Punjab; Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East; Africa; Central and South America.

AOS 4: Film Music. Learning how composers create music to support, express, complement and enhance films.

AOS 5: Conventions of Pop. Studying a range of popular music from the 1950s to the present day, focussing on: Rock 'n' Roll of the 1950s and 1960s; Rock Anthems of the 1970s and 1980s; Pop Ballads of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s; Solo Artists from 1990 to the present day.

Controlled Assessment (60%). You will complete a portfolio of compositions and performances throughout the course. The total length of performance required is a minimum **four minutes** with at least **one minute** as part of an ensemble. Learners can perform several short pieces within this. The total length of Composition required is a **minimum of three minutes**. You need to develop competence on an instrument or voice to perform.

Listening Paper (40%). A 90 minute listening exam is taken at the end of Year 11. You will answer questions on the Areas of Study 2-5. Some answers require knowledge of conventional staff notation and music theory (which will be taught), many simply require you to listen to and describe the music in relation to what you will have learnt about in the Areas of Study.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS GCSE MUSIC?

GCSE Music encompasses performing, composing and listening to a wide range of music. It is an academic course which includes learning information on different types of music from classical to jazz to pop. You will need to have at least a basic grasp of music theory. There is an exam for GCSE music worth 40% of the total grade.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESSION ROUTE FOR THE COURSE?

GCSE Music is an interesting course in its own right. It could lead to further academic study at AS/A2 level & beyond, or acceptance into specialist music colleges for further education.

SHOULD MY CHILD TAKE GCSE MUSIC?

The GCSE is well suited to students who already have lessons on an instrument or are considering doing so. It can also be taken by students who have enjoyed composing or learning about different styles of music in Key Stage 3, though they will also be required to perform for GCSE.

It is often difficult (though not impossible) for students wishing to further their music studies (e.g. through A Levels) or careers to access further and higher education without the theory and knowledge the GCSE course provides.

DOES THE GCSE COURSE PREPARE MY CHILD FOR AN A LEVEL IN MUSIC?

The GCSE course prepares your child well for the A level ('straight') in Music. It can also provide the music theory knowledge that will be of great benefit for the Music Technology course.

IS THERE A BTEC OPTION FOR THIS SUBJECT?

There are two pathways to achievement in this subject, the GCSE route and the BTEC route. Class teachers will continually assess progress and make a judgment on the path students interested in music should follow by the time they take their Year 9 Options.

We usually recommend the BTEC route for students who have an interest in music but don't like performing. If a student is playing a musical instrument regularly, we thoroughly recommend they go for the GCSE route.

