

Music

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: Edexcel

Introduction

GCSE Music is about making and listening to music. It covers performing, composing and listening in a wide variety of musical styles - popular music, world music, and classical music. There are opportunities to use music technology such as sequencing and recording.

Course content

Students will study in the following areas:

- **Western Classical Music (1600 – 1899)**
Ground bass and Variations, Ternary Form and Rondo
- **Changing Directions in Western Classical Music from 1900**
Minimalism, Expressionism and Serialism, Experimental and Electronic
- **Popular Music in Context**
Dance Music 1885 – Present, Songs from Musicals, Britpop and its influences
- **Indian Raga, African Music and Fusion**

Students will perform two pieces of music at the end of the course for examination and compose a further two pieces.

Assessment

30% Performance (One Solo and One Ensemble Piece)

30% Composition (2 Compositions related to two different areas of study)

40% Listening and Appraisal (Written Paper, 1 ½ hours)

Why study Music?

Opportunities for further study and career pathways:

GCSE Music is a good preparation for further musical study and a solid foundation for the AS/A Levels in Music and Music Technology as well as BTEC National Diplomas (in Music, Popular Music and Music Technology) and the Vocational A-Level in Performing Arts. Students may wish to take a GCSE in Music for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest. Alternatively, students may wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of music or 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.

As well as covering Music at GCSE level, the course will enable students to develop Key Skills in Information Technology which are useful in most careers. GCSE Music also offers opportunities to develop the wider key skills in working with others (e.g. taking part in rehearsals, performing). Which are valuable to employers.

For further information contact: Nathan Harrow or Caroline Williams