

GCSE Music



Exam Board: AQA

Course Outline:

Music GCSE is suitable for **anybody** who enjoys:

- **Singing**,
- **Performing** on an instrument,
- **Composing** their own music,
- **Listening** to music of different styles – **modern** music, music from **history**, and music from **around the world**

GCSE Music is a **creative, passionate** and **challenging** course of study that will support your learning **in all areas**. You will **grow as a musician** as you learn about new styles, and get to know **your own music** better. We will assist your development and progress through the course to ensure you reach your potential. Obviously, choosing Music would be important for a musical career, but it is also much in demand from employers and higher education institutions because of the **transferable skills** you learn as a musician.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Pupils **do not have to be able to play an instrument (or sing)** before beginning the course (but it's recommended that you begin **studying an instrument** (or singing) **as soon as you have made your choice**).
- If you are already having music lessons, then you can use the pieces you are learning for the performance part of the course. This could mean that you are able to complete **50% of the controlled assessment** without any extra work!
- This GCSE will cater to your musical skills – there is lots of flexibility, and freedom to work **in your own way**.
- If you did **not study Music in Year 9**, come to speak to Mr Halstead to discuss whether you will still be able to take it for GCSE.

Method of assessment:

- Only **40%** of the course is an **exam**, which features 'listening' questions, and some extended answers about pieces we will have studied. We will study pieces from all sorts of musical styles – everything from Club Dance or World Music to traditional classical pieces!
- The rest (**60%**) is made up of **controlled assessment**:
 - o **2 performances** – one as a **solo**, another as an **ensemble**. These can be pieces you've already prepared in instrument/voice lessons (if applicable), or else we can suggest pieces/songs.
 - o **2 compositions** – one will be to a **set brief** by the exam board, the other is a **free choice** (in any style you like!!)

Post 16 Progression:

- **A Level Music:** A broad and interesting course, where you study popular and classical music and develop your composition and performance skills further.
- **A level Music Technology:** Use of recording equipment/studying modern music
- **BTEC Music:** How musicians work in the music industry; Composition; Performance

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