



Music

Qualification

Edexcel GCSE in Music

Objectives

The course will encourage you to:

- engage actively in the study of music
- develop musical skills and interests, including the ability to make music individually and in groups
- understand and appreciate a range of different kinds of music
- become an effective and independent learner and a critical and reflective thinker.

Overview

If you enjoy performing music in your own time and are learning an instrument, having singing lessons or enjoy creating music, then this is a good subject for you to choose!

This course offers you the opportunity to further develop your interest in music and will give you a solid foundation for further advanced study (AS/A level Music or Music Technology; degrees in Music, Music Production, Music Performance, Music Business, Combined Music Studies; courses related to Musical Theatre, the Performing Arts).

It may lead to work opportunities, careers and extended study in the following areas : music administration, broadcasting, composing and arranging, careers in ICT, community arts, youth worker (music), music studio engineer and technician and production, recording and recording industry, games or media, journalism, library work, musical performance, music therapy, music retail industry, music instrument maker/repairer, publishing, promotion, software developer, teaching and lecturing, video production.

The knowledge, skills and understanding which you have acquired throughout your key stage 3 music course are the foundation for your GCSE work.

You will prepare solo and ensemble performances, compose and learn about a variety of music traditions, styles and genres. The three key aspects of musical knowledge (Performing, Composing, and Listening and Appraising) are related to each other through the Areas of Study, and within each broad Area of Study are three prescribed set works.

Area of Study 1:	Area of Study 2:	Area of Study 3:	Area of Study 4:
Western Classical Music 1600-1899	Music in the 20th Century	Popular music in context	World Music
Set Works ; - GF Handel : Chorus – And the Glory of the Lord from Messiah - WA Mozart : First movement from Symphony No 40 in G minor - F Chopin : Prelude No 15 in D flat major	Set Works ; - A Schoenberg : peripetie from Five Orchestral Pieces - L Bernstein : Something's Coming from West Side Story - S Reich : Third movement (fast) from Electric Counterpoint	Set Works ; - M Davis : All Blues from the album Kind of Blue - J Buckley : Grace from the album Grace - Moby : Why Does My heart Feel So Bad? From the album Play	Set Works ; - Capercaillie : Chuir M'Athair Mise Dhan Taigh Charraideach (Skye Waulking Song) from the album Nadurra - Rag Desh : (suggested listening selections) - Koko : Yiri

Skills

The course will develop your skills in the following areas:

- performing as a soloist and as part of an ensemble
- composing music using a variety of structures, styles and genres
- researching, planning, drafting, composing and recording music within a time frame
- arranging music
- recording music
- reading and writing music
- understanding musical traditions and the context in which music is composed or performed
- evaluating your own and others' music
- analyzing music

Course Content

Within each Area of Study you will learn about musical traditions, style and genres, the music of key composers, and will study the context in which the set works were composed. The set works will be studied in detail.

You will explore a range of compositional starting points and will investigate a range of techniques for developing and manipulating ideas, and will turn them into completed pieces of work. You will explore the skills needed to arrange music.

You will learn to prepare, rehearse and refine performances, developing technical control, expression and interpretive skills and will perform as a soloist and as part of an ensemble.

You will submit for examination two compositions, and one solo and one ensemble performance (see below for further details).

30% : Controlled assessments of composition / arrangements:

- two compositions or arrangements must be submitted (each recorded and with a notated score)
- each composition must be based on a different Area of Study;
- following research and preparation, you will have ten hours per composition to produce the recording and notated score.

30% : Controlled assessment of performances:

- one solo performance and one ensemble performance must be submitted, recorded in the presence of your teacher.

40% : 1 hour 30 minute examination, externally marked.

- Students respond to questions based around the set works within the Areas of Study, and to questions based on recorded extracts of set works, including a more in-depth question.

Assessment