

GCSE Music

"Without music, life would be a mistake" – Friedrich Nietzsche



Course Overview

GCSE Music offers scholars the opportunity to compose, perform and explore different areas of musical study.

30% of the course is dedicated to Composition. 15% of this is towards creating any song in any style of their choice. This ranges from the K-Pop song they've always dreamed of creating, or a String Quartet composition they would like to have performed.

The other 15% is a composition set to an assignment brief by the OCR exam board at the start of Year 11.

30% of the course is also dedicated to performance on any instrument of their choice. By performance, this does not mean performing in front of a large audience. This could simply be one performance of a solo song recorded by the designated OCR GCSE Music Moderator (the class teacher), and one performance as part of a band (again, not necessarily in front of an audience). The final 40% is a listening exam, set in the same style as other GCSE exams, with the exception that there is Music to listen to help answer the questions.

Finally, all scholars choosing GCSE Music are entitled to one 25 minute a week instrument lesson on an instrument of their choice if the school can provide that specialised tuition.

What are the topics I will study?

Area of Study 1 – My Music

Area of Study 2 – The Concerto Through Time

Area of Study 3 – Rhythms Of The World

Area of Study 4 – Film Music

Area of Study 5 – Conventions of Pop

What skills and knowledge will I develop?

You will be able to create your own songs and perform the songs you enjoy listening to on the instrument you've always wanted to learn. You will study a wide range of Music from the Brandenburg Concerto to Living on a Prayer by Bon Jovi, and you will be able to identify and articulate their key features.

Further reading:

- OCR GCSE (9-1) Specification – Music J536 – www.ocr.org.uk
- OCR GCSE Music Study Guide
- GCSE Music OCR Complete Revision & Practice

Qualification Details

- **Qualification:** GCSE
- **Exam board:** OCR

Assessment Pathway

- 1 free composition
- 1 exam board set composition
- 1 solo performance
- 1 ensemble performance

Possible Careers

- Secondary School Music Teacher
- Peripatetic Music Teacher
- Performing Musicians
- Ensemble Musician
- Composer

Examples:

- Ed Sheeran continued his education by completing a Music Performance qualification at university before becoming a world-famous Musician.
- Mr. Larsen went on to college to study Music and then to university to study Music with Education on his journey to becoming Director of Music.

Employability Skills:

- **Creativity** – In Music you will learn how to create your own Music. This is an amazing chance of you to put your own feelings into lyrics, into melody, or into the overall atmosphere of a piece.
- **Staying Positive** – Sometimes learning an instrument or creating a piece is hard. In Music you will clearly see how consistent practice and application results in you gaining more skill, and you will see why keeping positive about your progress ends in success.

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