

Course Outline

Music is open to any student, regardless of whether they play an instrument. However, if you do not play an instrument, you must be prepared to sing or play a classroom instrument. It is not essential to be able to read music, but a commitment to extra-curricular musical activities such as orchestra or choir is compulsory. In Years 10 and 11, students will continue to develop the skills highlighted in Key Stage 3 - performing, composing and appraising.

Unit 1 - Performing 35%

Section A 30% - A minimum of two pieces; one ensemble and one solo.

Section B 5% - Programme note for one of the performance pieces.

Unit 2 - Composing 35%

Section A 30% - Two compositions.

Section B 5% - A written evaluation of one of the compositions.

Unit 3 - Appraising 30%

1 hour written listening examination linked to the areas of study.

What will I study?

The performing, composing and appraising skills will be developed within the following four areas of study:

- Musical Forms and Devices - structures and composition devices in the Western Classical Tradition.
- Music for Ensemble - texture and timbre, for jazz and blues, musical theatre, chamber music and Welsh folk music.
- Film Music - experimental music using IT and how it has an impact on the audience.
- Popular Music - explore musical idioms associated with a variety of popular music.

Any student who chooses to follow the Music GCSE course will be entered for instrument or singing lessons with a visiting specialist. However, there is a charge for these lessons currently £55 per term.

