

KS4 Music Curriculum Overview

What are the Big Ideas in Music?

The varied nature of music enables students to develop highly desirable skills in areas such as self-management, creativity, data analysis, performance, teamwork, problem-solving, and communication, all of which makes them an attractive prospect for potential employers. Rather than limiting career prospects, a music degree opens doors to a wide range of careers both within and outside the arts. Music, computing and mathematics are famously linked; much of music is about the manipulation of patterns and programming. Learning about the historical and cultural context of music helps students perform and broadens general knowledge of history and the world.

What topics will I learn in Music?

The GCSE Music course requires learners to practically apply knowledge and understanding, including musical vocabulary and notation as appropriate to the context, through the skills of Performing, Composing and Listening and appraising.

The topics we will study are:

- Grade 5 ABRSM theory
- The Concerto Through Time studying music of Vivaldi, Corelli, Brandenburg, Mozart, Beethoven, Rachmaninov.
- Rhythms of the World studying music of Central and South America, Africa, Eastern Mediterranean and India.
- Film and Game Music similar to Halo, Out of Africa, John Williams, Music synchronised with action.
- Conventions of Pop studying Post 1950s, Rock 'n' Roll, Rock Anthems 70s and 80s, Solo artists from the 90s till present day.

How will we study?

We study through theory lessons, history lessons, visits, masterclasses, concert tours, concerts, music technology, sound design and recording, listening to music and through the creation and performance of music.

How will my work be assessed?

KS4 Music requires learners to practically apply knowledge and understanding, including musical vocabulary and notation as appropriate to the context, through the skills of:

Performing 30% at least 4 minutes.

Composing 30% 2 compositions over 3 minutes in length.

Listening and appraising 40% written