

MUSIC

Music is one of the Performing Arts subjects. In the first three years, students study a combination of Dance, Drama and Music, spending several weeks on each discipline.

The aim of the Music Department is to provide opportunities for students to positively engage with a variety of musical styles and to reach high standards of musicianship through composing, performing, listening and appraising. Extra-curricular clubs are varied and performance opportunities both in and out of school are exciting and challenging.

Aims of the subject

- To reach high standards of musicianship
- To provide opportunities for students to perform as soloists and as part of a group
- To use industry standard music technology creatively and imaginatively
- To appreciate different musical genres and traditions and to be able to appraise all music critically
- To be able to compose with an awareness of structure and style

Overview of KS3

Throughout KS3, students rotate around Drama, Dance and Music. Each year, students spend eight lessons in each discipline, developing knowledge and skills. The work undertaken during this time is then shared with students from the other Performing Arts subjects, giving them the opportunity to celebrate their achievements more widely.

What will be studied in Year 7

In Year 7, students study the elements of music and explore them through composing, performing and listening to a range of musical styles and traditions. Students also learn basic key skills on different instruments and explore sounds through practical activities.

What will be studied in Year 8

In Year 8, students continue to build upon and develop skills they learnt in Year 7 through studying a range of music from around the world including: African Drumming, The Blues and Reggae. They also begin to develop more skills on guitar, ukulele and keyboard.

What will be studied in Year 9

In year 9, students will further develop their performance skills in lessons. Students will also have the opportunity to learn new skills in music technology using industry standard equipment and sequencing software. Students will study units in: the production of popular music, producing music for the moving image and producing dance music, in order to help prepare them for a BTEC in music technology.

MUSIC - GCSE

Examination Board:

AQA GCSE Music

Course Content:

The course content is taught through a range of practical and theoretical activities which cover the elements of music:

- Melody
- Harmony
- Tonality
- Sonority (timbre)
- Texture
- Tempo, rhythm and metre

These elements are explored through two of the four areas of study:

1. The Western Classical Tradition (1650-1910)
2. Musical Language
3. Popular Music
4. Traditional Music

The Course Offers:

- a greater weighting given to practical work. We know that most candidates choose music because they want to perform and create music; the course gives candidates the opportunity to make the most of their skills and enthusiasm for performance and composition.
- the opportunity to perform individually and in groups of any size.
- the choice of vocal/music technology and/or acoustic music in performing and composing.
- a wide choice of styles of composition.
- flexibility for candidates by offering choices that enable them to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding in a way that suits them best.
- a solid foundation for AS and A level as well as preparation for a music-related career.

Why Music?

Music is academic. A recent study from the University of California found that music trains the brain for higher forms of thinking. Research indicates that musical training permanently wires a young mind for enhanced performance.

Music is physical. Learning to sing and play develops coordination, dexterity skills and breathing skills, and promotes a healthy body.

Music is for life. Most people can't play football at 70 or 80 years old but they can play and sing!

Assessment:

Component 1: Understanding Music (exam paper with listening exercises) 40%

Component 2: Performing Music (one solo and one ensemble performance) 30%

Component 3: Composing Music (one free composition, one composition to a brief) 30%

Further information from Mrs Salt / Mr Wells