

GCSE Music



Why should I study GCSE Music?

- Choosing GCSE Music will give you the chance to study something that you have an interest in and enjoy
- It is important to choose GCSE subjects that you enjoy as there will be much more work compared to KS3



Studying Music has many benefits, some subject related and others more general. You will learn to:

- Perform & compose music
- Listen to features in musical extracts
- Develop your creative skills
- Develop your analytical skills
- Work in teams & make decisions
- Develop communication skills
- Develop your confidence

What's the subject about?

- You **must** enjoy singing or playing an instrument if you want to succeed at GCSE.
- You will also study music theory, and you will learn about pieces of music in a wide variety of styles from different centuries.



What will I be doing in GCSE Music?

- You will develop your skills in performing, composing and listening in a series of projects.
- The composition unit will allow you to use your own instruments and/or technology to create individual pieces of music.
- You will also be encouraged to develop performing skills as individuals, in small groups and larger whole-school ensembles.

Year 9 Options

- Music theory will give you a greater understanding of how music is put together.
- A variety of topics will be studied and music will be analysed in preparation for the written examination.



Course Requirements

- Students are required play pieces of Grade 3+ standard in order to achieve the highest marks in the Performing Unit
- You must have the confidence to perform in front an audience and it is beneficial to participate in musical activities in and out of school

Year 9 Options

- You must be willing to learn about music from a wide variety of styles
- You must be able (or willing to learn to!) read traditional music notation in treble and bass clef



What does GCSE Music involve?

The course is divided into **three** units:

- Performing (35%)
- Composing (35%)
- Appraising (Listening and Analysing)
(30%)

Course Outline

Performing:

- You will perform ensemble and/or solo pieces which will be recorded regularly in class. The final assessment will involve performing 4-6 minutes of music.
- You will write and submit a Programme Note about one of the pieces of music you have performed.

Course Outline

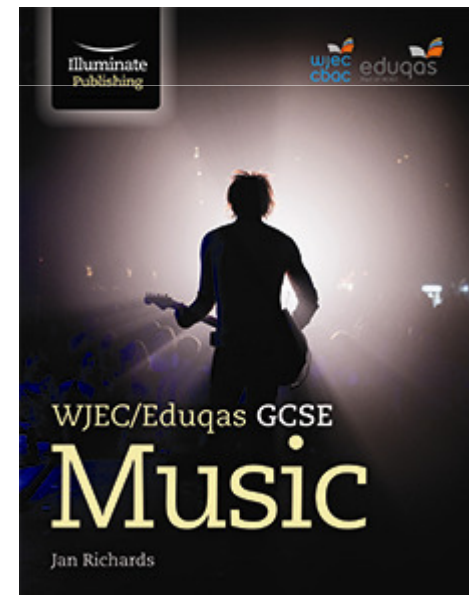
Composing:

- You will compose a free-choice piece in Year 10 and a second piece in Year 11 to a brief set by the exam board.
- You will write and submit an Evaluation of the Year 11 composition.

Course Outline

Listening:

- You will sit a 1 hour written examination in Year 11, answering questions about music from the different Areas of Study.



Year 9 Options

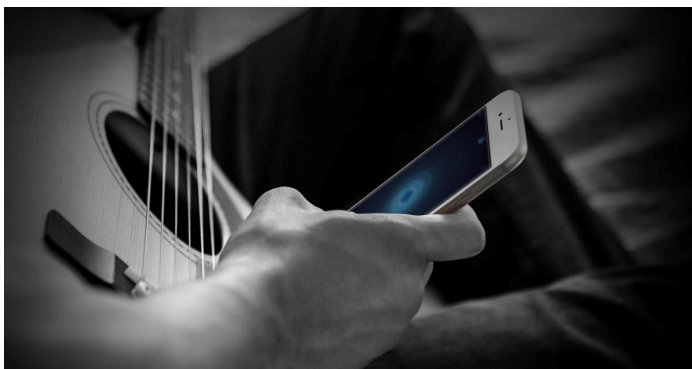
All activities link to the **four** Areas of Study:

Music for
Ensemble



Film Music

Popular Music



Musical Forms
& Devices



Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Forms and devices are of fundamental importance in musical composition, and many of the common musical forms and devices used by composers today have their origin in the Western Classical Tradition.

Learners are encouraged to engage with a variety of music from 1600 to the present day, through a range of performing, composing and appraising activities. They are also encouraged to make links between music they listen to, pieces they perform and their own compositions, as well as music by composers from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries who use these forms and devices.

Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble

Music for ensemble forms the basis for a study of texture and timbre. Through a study of diverse musical styles composed for ensemble, such as jazz and blues, musical theatre, chamber music and Welsh folk music, learners will consider how music is composed for small groups of instruments and voices.

Learners are required to perform as part of an ensemble, and through this to actively engage with ensemble music, understanding the relationship between performers on the stage and the audience.

Year 9 Options

Area of study 3: Film Music

The film industry is of considerable commercial and cultural interest in both the UK and abroad.

Through this area of study learners are encouraged to consider how music for film is created, developed and performed, and the impact this has on the audience.

Learners will have the opportunity to compose and perform film music and are encouraged to use musical technology to create mood and atmosphere through engaging with the story of the film.

Area of study 4: Popular Music

Popular music is a wide-ranging and diverse art form encompassing several distinct genres.

Through this area of study learners are encouraged to explore the musical idioms associated with a variety of popular music, and they will have the opportunity to perform popular music as well as compose music associated with a popular music genre.

Learners are also encouraged to use music technology, understanding the impact this has on the way music is developed and performed in popular music.

What is expected of you?

If you choose GCSE Music you must:

- **practise your instrument/voice regularly** and take part in performing activities;
- **listen to a wide variety of music**, both recorded and live, in school, at home or in the community;
- **experiment with musical ideas** in school and at home to create your own compositions;
- **meet all deadlines** for submission of work.

What skills will I get from studying Music?

- Studying music can give you a great mix of skills which can help in your future, whatever career path you choose.
- In Music, you will be provided with lots of opportunities to develop **team work** skills, **communication** skills and **self management** skills.

Year 9 Options



- Music will also help you build your **problem solving, research, planning, analytical and critical thinking** skills, as well as develop your **creativity**.
- Not to mention **discipline, composure under pressure, time management, communication, team and individual working ability** - all gained from practice and performing.

Year 9 Options

- You might also learn **technical** skills through using computers, equipment and software to create and record music.



Careers in Music

- Music graduates have a wide range of career options available to them both inside and outside the industry, including: performer, teacher, administrator, songwriter, conductor, composer, recording engineer, manager, promoter, or music publisher.

Year 9 Options

- There are also more jobs than ever in music business related areas, such as: careers in digital marketing, social media, PR, technology, label services, ticketing and merchandising.
- It is also common to find music graduates in consultancy, finance, banking, music therapy and legal jobs.

GCSE Music

- enables creative learning
- allows communication in a unique language
- enables you to express yourself
- is varied and interesting, and a journey of discovery
- has links to real life
- is academically rigorous
- is well respected by top universities
- is fulfilling and challenging

Still unsure about GCSE Music?

Speak to Miss Thomas for more information about:

- GCSE Music or
- Instrumental / Vocal lessons in school



@SRG_Music

