

KS4 MUSIC



Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	OCR	J536

Course Outline

Music GCSE is an excellent choice for pupils who are interested in composing, listening to and performing music to a high standard.

Whilst having lessons on an instrument (in or out of school) is an advantage, there are options for those who have yet to take an instrument. Pupils who have started lessons at the start of Year 10 have achieved good grades. We enjoy close relationships with ensembles such as the CBSO and BCMG and have benefitted from workshops with their musicians over the last few years, as well as trips to see them perform.

Assessment

One tier entry: 40% Examination, 60% Controlled Assessment

Listening (40%): Pupils undertake a listening examination requiring them to listen to musical excerpts and then respond to questions. The exam is based on four areas of study which are The Concerto through Time, Rhythms of the World, Film Music and Conventions of Pop.

Composition (30%): Pupils compose two pieces of music, one in response to a brief set by the board. The compositions can be done on the several different music programmes the department have (Reason, Logic and Sibelius) or directly on the pupil's instrument. Pupils will hand in an audio recording, a score and a write up for each composition. To be successful, pupils need to creatively develop musical ideas into a coherent and interesting composition, using recognised techniques and devices.

Performance (30%): Pupils submit two performances consisting of a solo and an ensemble (group performance). The combined length of the performances must be at least four minutes. To get the highest marks, pupils are required to perform with accuracy, use appropriate instrumental techniques and pay careful attention to the performance directions.

Course Progression

The course leads perfectly into A-Level music, A-Level Media and other Performing Arts qualifications. At a further education level, music is highly valued by many universities as it has long been proven that those that studying music show great commitment, determination, increased concentration, great independent and team working skills.

Career Opportunities

There are many career paths that link directly to GCSE Music:

Professional Musician, Session Musician, Composer, Sound Technician, Sound Engineer, Recording Technician/Engineer, DJ, Music Therapist, Instrumental Teacher etc. There are lots of jobs, ones that you may not even realise value music as a skill, such as Medicine, Law, Armed Forces, Police etc.