

Music

GCSE – OCR

Subject Leader: Mrs Morgan

What's it all about?

GCSE music offers an engaging course for students who enjoy performing, composing and listening and appraising. Performing and composing are each worth 30% of the final grade and require two performances and two compositions to be completed during the course. Listening and appraising is assessed through a 1 hour 30 minutes examination and is worth 40% of the final grade. Questions are based on four areas of study (The Concerto Through Time, Rhythms of the World, Film music and Conventions of Pop) which are analysed during the course.

Who should take it?

Students who:

- Have some performance ability on an instrument/voice
- Enjoy composing/creating their own pieces of music
- Are willing to listen to and study music from a wide range of musical styles

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn how to prepare a good quality performance on your main instrument/voice, how to compose in different styles and structures and how to analyse pieces of music. You will need to be able to work independently as well as with others and be willing to listen to music from a wide range of styles. Some understanding of stave notation is helpful.

The course allows the use of music technology in performance and as a compositional tool therefore you will develop an understanding of a variety of music technology software. During the course students develop the ability to become effective and independent learners and critical and reflective thinkers.

How will I be assessed?

- Two performances will be internally assessed/externally moderated
- Two compositions (based on different areas of study) will be internally assessed/externally moderated
- One written examination which is externally assessed

What do your current students say?

“I enjoy music lessons because there is a lot of independent work and you are free to do composition and performance at your own pace.”

“I enjoy the fact we are given freedom and we can play a variety of different styles and pieces.”

“I enjoy the variety of composition, ensemble performance and solo performance – it keeps it interesting.”

Is there anything else I need to know?

If you have your own instrument, it is helpful if you can bring it in for practical lessons. Some keyboard skills are useful but not essential, as is some awareness of stave notation.

Who can I contact for further information?

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