

# Music

Level 1/2 GCSE Qualification - EDUQAS

Course Leader: Miss Arscott

## Successful learner profile

- Is able to develop one or more of the following: play an instrument (including voice), learn an instrument, join the extracurricular music performance opportunities in the College such as concerts and productions.
- Has a passion for music.
- Works well both independently and as part of a group.
- Is able to rehearse to develop instrumental/ vocal skills independently.
- Enjoys listening to and appreciating an eclectic mix of music of different styles and genres

## What will you study?

Students will study the three main areas of music which are Performing, Composing and Listening. Students will also learn how to compose in different musical styles. They will develop their performance skills on their chosen instrument or voice in both a solo and ensemble capacity. Students will look at set pieces and undertake related listening from 4 areas of study which are as follows:

1. Musical Forms and Devices
2. Music for Ensemble
3. Film Music
4. Popular Music

## Why choose this course?

You can gain a GCSE in Music if you already play or wish to take up an instrument (including voice) and are keen to develop your musicianship skills further. 60% of your mark is coursework which means only 40% is assessed for the listening examination. Music is a subject which gives students transferable skills which can be utilised across many other subjects and career paths. This is a creative course allowing students to explore and develop their performing and composing abilities across many genres but is also academically demanding, developing a solid understanding of Musical Theory and its application in the analysis of set works. As a subject, GCSE Music develops excellent literacy and numeracy skills through the study of the set works and writing about them and other related pieces critically. Students look at pieces from a social and a historical perspective, gaining a holistic understanding of Music which can be applied in other subjects such as History, Geography, Art, Science and English. The musical terminology used at GCSE also includes Italian and French words. Music can therefore be a complimentary subject to those with an interest in Modern Foreign Languages.

## How will you be assessed?

- Performing (30%)  
Students must perform one SOLO and one ENSEMBLE piece with a combined time of at least 4 minutes. One piece must be linked to an Area of Study. Pieces performed should be of Grade 4 standard (ABRSM/Rock School/Trinity etc.) but students of lower and higher standards are still able to access this course component.
- Composing (30%)  
Students must compose 2 pieces with a combined length of at least 3 minutes. One of the compositions is a response to a brief set by Eduqas. Students do not need to have any prior experience of composing although have an interest in composing their own music or writing their own songs.
- Listening Exam (40%)  
Students will sit a listening exam featuring 8 questions, 2 on each area of study including a set work in AoS1 and AoS4.

## Possible progression post 16

After completing a GCSE in Music there are many options. There are AS/A levels in Music and Music Technology. BTEC Diplomas in Performance, Music, Music Technology, Music Production at First and National Level and it can also link with other Performing Arts courses such as Drama, Performing Arts and Theatre Studies. There are courses in Musical Theatre, and many other aspects of Music including song writing, audio recording. These courses can lead into degrees in many different aspects of music.

## Weblinks

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/by5boopf/eduqas-gcse-music-spec-from-2016-d.pdf>  
GCSE Music - Eduqas - BBC Bitesize

Balanced | Rigorous | Coherent | Vertically Integrated | Appropriate | Relevant