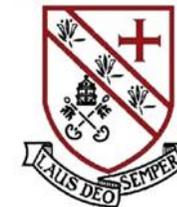


Curriculum Overview
Year 11 – Music 2021-2022



Rationale for Year 11 Music

Music in Year 11, the rationale is a continuation from Year 10 as this is a two-year course in which the students have to complete 3 different components in order to achieve the award. The course is designed to develop a broad understanding of the connections between the knowledge, understanding and skills as a whole. The different components allow the students to demonstrate their understanding of the relationships between theory and practice. (AQA)

Music GCSE has three components that the students are assessed on: Understand Music, Performing Music and Composing Music. Two of these areas are coursework based and the students sit a written/listening exam at the end of the course. The students will be studying music from 1650 to the present day, across a wide range of genres. 'They will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively and to reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.' (AQA) The students will also explore the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural relating to the music they will listen to and study throughout the year.

What will students learn and why?

Students will learn the following:

Understanding Music: The students study two set works. The first of these is a movement from a piece by a composer in the Classical era. The second set work is a selection of songs or pieces from Popular Music strand. Students will learn the techniques, harmonic devices, technological devices and musical features used in each of the pieces. They will have to answer questions in the exam at the end of the course. They need to know the details of each of the pieces and be able to answer questions ranging from transposition, instrumentation, musical devices, structure and tonality. The students do an in depth analysis of each of the songs. Students practise exam style questions on each of the areas of study, to prepare for the mock exam in January. Between January and March, all the AOS are revisited using revision questions, class discussions and work sheets. From April to June the students do mock papers.

Composing Music: Students will complete their first composition and start the Exam Set brief one. Both compositions have to be a combined minimum of 3 minutes. Students will develop their skills with different composing techniques and styles. Student are expected to think creatively and demonstrate an effective selection and use of the musical elements, expressive and technical control in their use of the elements and selecting the appropriate elements for their own composition. They must also continue to use appropriate musical elements that feature in their composition. Students are required to compose using methods appropriate to the style/genre of their composition. For the exam, students need to include a form of notation of their own choosing. During term 2, students learn how to write effective Programme Notes to support their compositions; this allows the examiner to see the reason behind their musical choices. The composition work has to be the students own unaided work, varied by the teacher, and completed at school (not at home).

Performing Music: This part of the course is mostly studied and prepared with the students' instrumental tutor. However, preparation also takes place in the classroom. Some students perform their pieces in the GCSE concert in November. All solos have a recording deadline of December in Year 11 and the group pieces are recorded by the end of January. This gives both the teacher and student time to look through the marking criteria to decide if the student should rerecord their performances for the chance to gain a higher grade.

How will students learn?

The sequence of topics are listed in the previous box. Students learn through the following types of activities:
The students have a booklet that has been put together containing the worksheets, logbooks, composition targets etc. all in one place.

Understanding Music: The students will study each Area of Study using a variety of different resources to reinforce the learning. This will be supported with the use of Question and Answer sessions. Students will be required to prepare a presentation to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of each area studied. The students will complete listening test at the end of each section to support their learning. Most of Year 11 will focus on the Set Works that will feature in the final exam. Students will use score walkthroughs, video analysis and knowledge organisers in order to help prepare them for the final exam. This will be accompanied by regular practice questions and mock exams.

Composing Music: The students will complete their first composition at the start of Year 11 and move on to their second composition, which is Composition to a Brief set by the examination board at the start of the year. Students will have regular 1:1 sessions with the teacher to check learning and to show they have met the targets set. Students track their composition progress with a logbook. The students will learn how to write suitable Programme Notes to accompany their compositions; they will be given examples of good practice and tuition on using appropriate prose and grammar. All students are issued with a Marking Criteria and are expected to refer to this when they are self-evaluating their work both in their 1:1 sessions with the teacher and on their own.

Performing Music: The students have to prepare two performances, their instrumental teacher will be their primary source of learning for this element of the course. The students will have regular performance opportunities both within the classroom and in front of an audience. All students have a copy of the marking criteria to help them progress in the different areas that are assessed. Students are expected to complete a Practice Chart log as part of their learning and self-evaluate their progress. Students also peer assess each other's performance as part of this process.

How will students be assessed?

Understanding Music: Students will be assessed through regular listening mocks to check their understanding of each AOS. There will be summative and formal assessments on the Set Works, with particular attention to the longer style questions that have to be written using prose. In the Listening lessons, there will be a range of questioning styles to encourage the students to demonstrate their knowledge and embedded the skills. Students will also prepare presentations both individually and in pairs to the rest of the class on areas relating to the Set Work or the AOS. (The Listening Exam is worth 40% of the overall grade).

Composing Music: Students will have regular 1:1 sessions with the teacher to ensure that they are on track and to support the student where needed. Students will ensure all meeting notes are written up for their Exam Commentary. Regular targets will be set for the students to complete throughout each of the compositions. Students have a copy of the grade bands and the marking criteria; targets are linked to these so that the students are aware what they need to complete to achieve these. The final composition is marked by the teacher and sent to the Exam Moderator. (The Compositions are worth 30% of the overall grade).

Performing: For each mock performance, the students are peer marked using the exam criteria. These performances are recorded so that the students can listen to the areas that need improving. Students have a copy of the performance marking criteria in their booklets so that they can use it in their instrumental lessons to track their progress with their instrumental tutor. The solo piece is recorded by Christmas and the group performance by the February half term. This allows the student to rerecord their performances if they or the teacher feels the performances could be improved. The final composition is marked by the teacher and sent to the Exam Moderator. (The Performances are worth 30% of the overall grade).

What is the aim for learners by the end of the year in comparison to the previous year?

The GCSE course continues to develop the skills of the student in the areas of performing, composing and understanding music. Through the set works and general listening, students will have developed their knowledge, awareness and understanding of the different musical genres and styles. This knowledge will help the students to develop their own use of these components within their compositions. Students will be expected to use the performance opportunities to help them develop their confidence and to prepare for their final performance grade, focusing on accuracy, technical control, expression and interpretation. The course aims to prepare students to go on to study Music at a higher level or to complement their subject choices at higher/further education level.