

## Why study Music?

Music is a subject that includes a wide variety of transferable skills. It develops **self-confidence** through performance as well as **creativity**, both skills highly valued in the Business world. It also demonstrates a disciplined perseverance through the long-term study of an instrument.

Through the study of Music you will learn to:

- Develop your creativity
- Develop critical listening skills
- Think logically and solve problems through analysis
- Gain experience in software technology and recording skills
- Develop self-confidence through individual and group performance
- Communicate and work as part of a team

## Careers

You could go on to take a higher qualification in Music such as A-level, Performing Arts A level or Music Technology BTEC.

Studying Music for GCSE is particularly important in the following career paths:

- Performance or Composing in the Music Industry
- Production and Management in the Music Industry
- Film, video, television and radio
- Software and computer games
- Music and the visual and performing arts (including dance)
- Education, Community Arts, Music Therapist

All industries value the skills of creativity, self-confidence through performance and logical analysis that you get from studying Music

## What is GCSE Music?

### **GCSE MUSIC is divided into 3 units**

#### **1. Composing (controlled assessment) 30% The Creative coursework unit**

To compose 2 contrasting compositions lasting max 3 mins each using modern technology.

#### **2. Performing 35% The practical unit**

To perform in front of an external examiner, 1 solo and 1 ensemble piece at the level equivalent to gd.3/4 (higher graded pieces will gain extra marks) with a short discussion (worth 5%)

#### **3. Listening and Appraising (external assessment) 35% The academic listening unit**

1 listening paper based on the study of 11 set pieces from a wide variety of styles and eras including many examples of modern music and songs.

**There is no exam in y11.**

**The coursework is marked and sent in the Spring term of y12 and the practical is done normally in April of y12**

**2/3rds of Music is completed before the paper which is done in the Music room with a CD of recordings in 1 session during the exam season in May/June**

### **Top reasons to choose Music GCSE:**

- 1. If you enjoy playing, composing or listening to music**
- 2. Small classes means you get a lot of individual support**
- 3. Very few people fail, most get at least a B grade**
- 4. Not a lot of content to learn in comparison to other subjects**

### **All GCSEs will feel hard after KS3 so my top advice is:**

- 1. Choose subjects you enjoy as you are more likely to work at them**
- 2. Choose subjects that you feel comfortable doing because you will appreciate a natural ability when the going gets tough**
- 3. Choose a variety of types of subjects eg STEM, humanities, languages, Arts etc because:**
  - employers will value a variety of skills that you have and also,**
  - you will not know how good you are in the subject until you are challenged so many students start into GCSEs and only then realise that a subject they thought they were good at turns out to be a major problem and some you thought you weren't good at turn out to be your best subjects!**