



Key Stage 4 Music Curriculum (years 9, 10 & 11)

Key Stage 4 music begins in year 9, which is spent developing key skills in performing, composing and music theory. Students also spend time developing an understanding of the course requirements for GCSE music and learning about the styles of music covered in the Areas of Study.

The school follows the OCR syllabus for music and the themes studied are as follows;

Area of Study 1 – My Music

Students learn about their instrument or voice. They learn about techniques available to their instrument or voice, the range, styles of music it is most commonly found in and what task it may perform in that style.

Area of Study 2 – Shared Music

Students learn about the role of the ensemble in music making. Typical ensembles and the styles of music they perform. The history and development of the ensemble, both classical and popular.

Area of Study 3 – Dance Music

Students learn about key elements of various dance forms including country of origin, important rhythms, typical ensembles, typical structures, famous composers in that style, dance moves associated with the style.

Area of Study 4 – Descriptive Music

Students learn about the development of descriptive music from its beginnings as pastorals, to the Romantic era orchestral works, modern era and film music (diegetic and non-diegetic).

Resources

The music department has an extensive library of music in both solo and ensemble settings for all instruments and voices. It further has a collection of comprehensive text book (including musical examples CD) with bespoke supporting hand outs. There are further supporting electronic resources available on the student area of the school website to aid revision of Areas of Study.

The resources for the completion of coursework include computer facilities supporting both score writing and sequencing applications to best support students abilities / preferences as well as state of the art recording facilities including SD-CD recorder, a Power Mac running 'Pro-Tools' and a CD recorder with effects recording desk. The Department further has a stock of professional quality microphones including vocal condenser microphones, specialist drum kit microphones and stereo microphones to get the best results for coursework examples.

Assessment

Students are assessed in 4 areas as follows;

Unit 1 30% (B351) My Music School Moderation

Students *perform* a piece of music for their chosen instrument / voice where their part is a solo, or heavily featured part within the music. Students write a *composition* for their instrument, drawing on musical elements present in their performance. Students *write* an assessment of their performance commenting on the history of the piece, any techniques present in the piece, and commenting on any ideas they intend to use in their composition.

Unit 2 30% (B352) Ensemble music School Moderation

Students *perform* a piece of music in an ensemble on their chosen instrument / voice (as long as no one else is playing the same part). Students write a *composition* for an ensemble. Students *write* a log and evaluation of their composition.

Creative Task 15% (B353) Practical Exam Externally Assessed

Students are provided with a stimulus for a composition which they have to complete within 40 minutes.

Listening Exam 25% (B354) Externally Assessed

Students answer questions on the Areas of Study and musical theory whilst listening to musical examples.

Homework, Marking and Assessment

For the most part homework at Key Stage 4 is in the form of practicing for performance coursework (both solo and ensemble), or revision of musical theory and the Areas of Study.

Throughout Years 10 and 11 examination techniques and learning are improved with the use of tiered, past-paper exam questions, followed up using exam paper mark schemes. Future targets are set for students based on their performance. Whilst completing coursework, students have access to detailed mark schemes thus allowing them to be clear about what is required in order to gain the marks for each task.

At various stages throughout the course, the students receive academic reviews and subject reports. This enables current 'working at...' grades and GCSE target grades to be discussed with parents and students. In this way progress can be monitored and any individual needs or problems (eg. Underachievement / lack of coursework) can be identified and rectified.