

GCSE Music

Edexcel Specification

Why take GCSE Music?

Do you enjoy playing music? At GCSE Music you will have the chance to perform on your instrument.

Are you creative? Enjoy the chance to create performances and compositions by yourself and with others.

Are you a logical thinker? Enjoy analysing music and developing your theory skills

Do you enjoy practical tasks? 60% of the course is based on practical work (performance/composition) and is **coursework**

Also benefit from workshops, trips and our suite of practice rooms and Mac computers

What topics are studied?

Performance / Composition / Listening & Analysing (see next slide)

How am I assessed?

30% Performance – record one solo piece and one piece within a group; **30% Composition** – compose two original pieces of music; **40% Listening exam** – study 8 pieces of music throughout the two years



GCSE Music

We study these pieces of music:



Bach:
Brandenburg
Concerto



Beethoven:
'Pathétique'
Sonata



Purcell: 'Music
for a While'



Queen: 'Killer
Queen'



Schwartz:
'Defying
Gravity'



Williams: 'Star
Wars'



Afro Celt
Sound System:
'Release'



Spalding:
'Samba Em
Prelúdio'



FAQ's

I am not confident with music theory; will this matter?

No - we can teach you the required theory skills during the course. However, students who have already learned some music theory will find lots to stretch and challenge them within the course, too!

Do I need to (already) play an instrument?

It is a **HUGE** advantage if you are already learning an instrument or singing. If you are not, but want to take GCSE Music, you should start instrumental or singing lessons ASAP! There are subsidies available depending on your financial situation.

What if I don't want to study music after GCSE?

Taking GCSE Music does *not* mean you will necessarily continue your music studies further (*although we do have an excellent A level course!*). You should choose the subjects you most enjoy and those you need for the next stage of your life.

Can I take A level Music if I haven't studied it at GCSE?

Taking GCSE Music is a requirement to start the A level course.

How do I find out more about instrumental music lessons?

www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk



GCSE Music

Student Voice

“GCSE Music is a fun course and allows you to be expressive as well as teaching you to analyse and appreciate music on a deeper level.”

“The most enjoyable thing about GCSE music is the independent coursework aspects and getting to formulate our musical ideas.”

“I enjoy the fact that lessons are practical and we get to play our own instruments.”

“I chose music because you meet a lot of great people and have great fun in all the lessons.”

**“You should take music because playing together as a class is very fun...
it’s like one-to-one because the classes are smaller”**