

Department Title:

Music

Department Vision:

The music department aims to allow students develop an understanding of a wide variety of musical styles from around the world. The students have access to the latest technology as well as traditional instruments in order to compose and perform musical works. As a department we encourage instrumental tuition and have a large number of students who are taught weekly by peripatetic staff across the full range of orchestral and electronic instruments.

Year 7:

The focus in Year 7 is to provide and develop the skills needed to be able to read simple musical melodies from a given score and play the melody on the keyboard.

- Notation and music theory.
- Keyboard skills
- Instruments of the Orchestra
- Group Singing
- An introduction to music technology and recording

Year 8:

A description of targets, skills and focus for the year group:

- Minimalism
- Music in advertising
- Blues
- Theme and Variation
- Dance music

Year 9:

Year 9 use their music technology skills in order.

- Composition in a chosen genre using music technology and the studio
- Film motifs and arrangement
- Bhangra
- Intervals and Harmony

Year 10:

The department follows the Edexcel specification. By the end of year 10 three out of four areas of study will have been covered and students will have expected to have recorded a number of solo performances on their chosen instrument and to have begun a composition set to the students own brief. The areas of study include instrumental music, vocal music and music for stage and screen. Set works are analysed in readiness for the listening paper.

Year 11:

During Year 11 students complete the analysis of the set works contained within the fourth area of study as well as completing the two required compositions. Students also record themselves as part of an ensemble. Finished coursework would include a solo performance, an ensemble performance and two compositions.

Musical enrichment activities are also provided by the school which consist of ensemble group tuition and rehearsal. This greatly maximises the ability of students to gain high marks when performing and is provided by working music professionals.

Sixth Form:

Students have the option to select music or music technology at sixth form for A-level. Students who do not select to study music still have access to the music facilities contained within the school and if partaking in peripatetic music lessons they are also able to participate in the music enrichment activities.

Assessment:

KS3 students are assessed at the end of each unit of work.

Students who pass instrumental exams have their certificates presented to them in assemblies.

GCSE and A level is assessed using exam board criteria 60% is coursework and 40% externally set task (exam).

Additional information:

Current instrumental teaching includes piano/guitar/percussion/brass/woodwind and strings. The school has its own recording studio and music technology specialist which allows all students to have access to the facilities at planned times throughout the year.

Extra curricular activities include Orchestra, Big Band and a number of smaller ensemble groups. A junior choir is also run and the sixth form organise their own vocal ensemble. There are music concerts formally shown twice a year. The school offer a loan scheme for instruments. Depending on availability parents can have an instrument loaned to them free of charge for a set period.