



GCSE Music

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Why study GCSE Music?

The main aim is to develop students' interest and enjoyment of music that will be sustained in later life, so that students are inspired, moved and challenged by studying a broad, coherent, enjoyable and worthwhile course of study. Students will develop their own musical interests and skills including understanding how to make music individually and as part of a group. Students will be able to evaluate their own and others' music and understand and appreciate a range of different kinds of music, developing broader life-skills and attributes including critical and creative thinking, creative awareness and cultural understanding, self-discipline, self-confidence and self-motivation.

What does the course involve?

During the course students develop their ability in performing/realising and composing, and develop their listening and appraising skills. Students develop their knowledge and understanding of the use of musical elements and devices as well as areas of music technology and relevant notations, including staff notation. The course looks at the contextual influences that affect the way music is created, performed and heard including the effect of different intentions, uses, venues, occasions, available resources and the cultural environment.

Students will study music from the past and present, from the western tradition and other world cultures. The areas of study also provide opportunities for students to further their understanding of musical styles from pop music, to musicals, to African drumming and beyond. The areas of study include: Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen and World Music Fusions.

Students can choose to develop their skills in a wide variety of styles including keyboards, guitars, voice, DJ'ing, music technology, strings, drumming, tuned percussion and brass, in addition to widening their abilities in other areas throughout. Many students completing the course become outstanding members of bands, record professionally, and learn teamwork skills which will help them in all areas of GCSE and life in general.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed in four units:

Two compositions (15% each) 2 mins

Group Performance (15%) 2 mins

Solo Performance (15%) –1–2 mins

Appraisal Exam (40%) – 90min listening

What are my progression routes?

Music GCSE is a stepping stone to both A-Level Music and the BTEC Music Technology course, in addition to being more recognised as an opportunity for many differing performances beyond the GCSE course as well.

Additional Information

In addition to students' music lessons there are many extra-curricular music activities and performances which students will be expected to become involved in at Barnwell School. Students are also entitled to a free 20-minute individual instrumental lesson each week. It is ideal if students express an interest in Music in general and if they already play an instrument(s).