

# Music GCSE

In the Music department we offer two different courses:

- **Music GCSE**
- [NCFE Level 2 in Music Technology](#)

Whichever option you choose, studying music allows you an opportunity to take part in a practically based subject, explore new and different styles and develop your creativity.

Music qualifications are highly regarded by higher education and employers alike as musicians are trained to work methodically and to be self-disciplined. In addition to developing music-based skills, students also develop many general skills such as creativity, independent learning, research, teamwork, planning, and problem solving.

## Overview

This is a course for people who enjoy playing an instrument or singing. You will have the chance to develop your performance skills, create your own music and broaden your listening skills by investigating new styles and composers. Students on this course will receive free lessons on their instrument or voice within school in addition to their usual GCSE lessons to allow them to prepare for the performance component. It is also recommended that students take part in one of the bands/groups that meet and rehearse in the music department to help develop their ensemble playing, another essential element of the course.

## Topics

You will explore through listening, analysis, performance and composition work, the musical elements and devices associated with 4 Areas of Study:

- Forms and Devices
- Music for Ensemble
- Film Music
- Rock and Pop

There are two set works that you learn about in detail:

- Badinerie by J.S. Bach
- Africa by Toto

## Course Structure

Your grade is awarded through a combination of controlled assessment and an exam:

**Component 1 – Performing Music** – 30% - 4 minutes of performance. During the three years you will prepare several performances, both solo and ensemble (group) pieces. This will mainly be with your instrument/singing teacher. The final performances are recorded in school and sent to the exam board.

**Component 2 – Composing Music** – 30% - 3 minutes of composition. You will be guided through the process of creating your initial idea, developing it into a full piece and producing a score and recording for it. One composition will be in response to a brief (idea) set by the exam board and the second is a free composition.

**Component 3 – Understanding Music** – 40% - 1½ hour exam. You will hear unfamiliar music from the four areas of study as well as the two set works that will have studied during the course. You will be required to answer questions on the musical elements you can hear (melody, harmony, timbre, texture, tempo, and dynamics) as well as about the context and understanding the intended effect of the music.

#### Additional Information & Who to Contact

- For more information please follow the link to the course specification on the exam board website <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music-gcse/>
- If you require any further information or have any questions then please contact Mrs Hudson, Head of Music via email - [claire.hudson@consilium-at.com](mailto:claire.hudson@consilium-at.com)

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