

**TEACHER RESPONSIBLE FOR COURSE:** Mr A Balletto

## AIMS

- To develop skills, knowledge and understanding in performing, composing, listening and appraising;
- To encourage the development of aural perception, musical sensitivity and imaginative response;
- To promote students' cultural development through the study and understanding of a wide range of music;
- To support students' social and personal development through creating and performing music with others.

## CONTENT

The course will cover listening, performance and composition. A wide range of musical styles will be experienced, including world, popular and classical music. Skills will be developed in vocal and instrumental performance, listening with sensitivity and understanding, and composing in different styles with different materials and stimuli. Students will have the opportunity to use a variety of technologies including notation software and experience of digital recording technology, social context and how music fits into society will also be explored.

## METHOD OF ASSESSMENT AND TOPICS COVERED IN OCR GCSE MUSIC

The course combines the following 3 elements: **Five Areas of Study, Integrated Portfolio (Controlled Assessment) and Exams.**

### THE FIVE AREAS OF STUDY

1. *My Music*. Here you learn about and study your instrument or voice and perform and compose a piece
2. *The Concerto Through Time*. Here you learn about how the concerto developed from 1650 to 1910
3. *Rhythms of the World*. Here you learn about Indian Classical Music, Bhangra, traditional Arabic rhythms, with focus on Greek, Palestinian and Israeli music, traditional African drumming and Calypso and Samba
4. *Film Music*. You learn how composers use music to convey a mood, scene or story through studying film music and video game soundtracks
5. *Conventions of Pop*. This covers Rock 'n' Roll of the 50s and 60s, Rock Anthems of the 70s and 80s, Pop Ballads of the 70s, 80s and 90s, solo artists from 1990 to the present day

# Music | GCSE

## INTEGRATED PORTFOLIO (Coursework - 30%)

This is related to Area of Study 1 – My Music.

- You study a piece of music for your instrument, chosen by you and do some research on it.
- You perform the piece or a couple of short pieces
- You compose a piece of your own for your instrument, using ideas and influences from the piece you have performed.

## PRACTICAL COMPONENT (30%)

- You perform one or more ensemble pieces to demonstrate your understanding of making music with others.
- You compose a second piece in response to a brief set by the exam board that relates to one of the Areas of Study 2, 3, 4 or 5. You then begin your composition using one of the following 6 ideas as a starting point and these are specified by the exam board:

1. A rhythmic phrase
2. A note pattern
3. A four-line stanza of words
4. A chord sequence
5. A short story
6. An image

## EXAMS (40%)

- A Listening and Appraising Exam. This is a 1 ½ hour written paper in which you listen to music from Areas of Study 2, 3, 4 & 5 and answer questions. Your knowledge and understanding and aural perception are tested through this.

## OTHER INFORMATION

There is a good balance between theory & practical work and students will enjoy the interaction in ensemble activities. A general appreciation of and liking for a wide variety of music is important, as is an ability to play a musical instrument or sing to a moderate standard or above by the end of the course. An ability to read music is a distinct advantage but not a prerequisite.

The course will cater for:-

- a broad range of musical abilities and needs.
- a breadth of musical experience and differing interests.
- candidates with different musical aims, including those who intend to follow a musical career
- expression through a variety of musical styles

Students who enjoy playing musical instruments, singing or using music technology will find the course of great benefit, because it will provide not only extra opportunities for performance, but also help to develop them as complete musicians. The benefit of taking GCSE music alongside instrumental grades is that it prepares students for future study of music and broadens their awareness of music from a broad range of styles and cultures.

Music is challenging, fulfilling and fun!