



### Introduction:

The GCSE Music course will inspire the next generation of pupils in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills. Pupils will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

### Description of the course:

The course has three components. Performing (playing music) on your own and in a group. This could be in any style, on any instrument or voice. Pupils are expected to perform two pieces; one solo and one within an ensemble. The second component requires pupils to create two compositions. One is a free composition, whilst the second will be composed to a brief sent by the exam board in the September of Year 11. This could involve using computer software, writing for a specific purpose, writing songs etc. The final component allows pupils to explore how great pieces of music were put together. They will study music from a wide variety of genres including the Western Classical Tradition, Popular Song, Jazz and the Blues, Musicals and Film Music and will be expected to identify and describe how the musical elements are used within the music they hear.

### How you will learn:

Pupils will develop their performance skills through a range of activities including informal class showcases and public concerts. In composition, pupils will develop their skills learnt at KS3 by deepening their understanding of writing in numerous styles. Whilst in listening lessons pupils will develop both their analytical and appraising skills through the study of a wide variety of music genres looking at how composers use the musical elements in their compositions to suit their intended mood or occasion.

### Assessment:

Performance Coursework (Teacher assessed) 30%: One solo and one ensemble piece recorded in Year 11.  
Grade 3 music is the standard level and can score full marks if played perfectly. You can use any instrument or voice.  
Composition Coursework (Teacher assessed) 30%: One free choice and one in response to a set brief in Year 11.  
Listening and Appraising 40%: Pupils will complete a 1hr 15min exam in the summer of Year 11.  
There are eight questions, 2 on each area of study:  
AoS 1: Musical Forms and Devices (including a set work – currently 'Badinerie' by Bach)  
AoS 2: Music for Ensemble  
AoS 3: Film Music  
AoS 4: Popular Music (including a set work – currently 'Africa' by Toto)

### Using this qualification:

In the future, Creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (World Economic Forum.) When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted creativity as the most important workplace skill to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Music, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people. Music will enable you to demonstrate many skills which employers, colleges and universities are looking for such as creativity, concentration, listening, resilience, memory and team work. Music can also give you opportunities to travel, meet new people and get the most out of life. Music graduates have a wide range of career options available to them both inside and outside the industry, including: performer, teacher, administrator, songwriter, conductor, composer, recording engineer, manager, promoter, or music publisher. Music graduates can also be found in consultancy, finance, banking, music therapy and legal jobs to name just a few