

Course Aims

The course is designed to inspire students to form a personal and meaningful relationship with Music. It is about Music making and covers performing, composing and listening. Students 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. The styles covered include music for stage and screen, world music and classical music (instrumental and vocal).

Music can be extremely rewarding as an option if chosen for the right reasons. It allows you to explore new areas of music in a theoretical and practical way.

What you will study

Listening and Appraising

You will study 8 pieces of music, taken from 4 different areas of study, which will be assessed in the form of a listening exam taken at the end of the course; the exam is out of 80 marks.

The areas of study and set works are:

Area of Study	Set Work
Instrumental Music 1700-1820	• J.S. Bach: 3 rd Movement from Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D major
	• L. van Beethoven: 1 st movement from Piano Sonata No. 8 in C minor 'Pathetique'
Vocal Music	• H. Purcell: Music for a While
	• Queen: Killer Queen (from the album 'Sheer Heart Attack')
Music for Stage and Screen	• S. Schwartz: Defying Gravity (from the album of the cast recording of Wicked)
	• J. Williams: Main title/rebel blockade runner (from the soundtrack to Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope)
Fusions	• Afro Celt Sound Systems: Release (from the album 'Volume 2: Release')
	• Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio (from the album 'Esperanza')

Composing

You will compose 2 pieces for assessment, one in year 10 and the other in year 11.

Coursework requirements

Both compositions combined need to last for a minimum of 3 minutes.

One is to a set brief from Edexcel, the second is a free composition; you will decide on a brief with your teacher. Each composition is worth 30 marks.