

EDUQAS GCSE MUSIC

Reasons for studying this subject:

- You may be surprised to know that if you have been singing or playing an instrument for 2 or 3 years, you may *already* be of a suitable standard to do well in the 'Performing' aspects of the GCSE course.
- Throughout Key Stage 3 you have *already* had experience of 'Composing' using music technology, 'Performing' and 'Listening/ Appraising' quite a wide range of different musical *styles / genres*.
- By studying GCSE Music you will gain a deeper understanding of both familiar and unfamiliar music, have opportunities to compose your *own* music and to perform pieces that you know / enjoy.
- **You do not need to be learning an instrument, have taken a music exam, belong to an ensemble, nor read music to consider taking GCSE music – although these certainly support your progress and eventual attainment.**

What you will study:

- A wide range of contrasting musical styles / genres within **four 'Areas of Study'**:
 - **Popular Music / Film Music / Music for Ensemble / Structures & Devices**
- The '**Dimensions of Music**' *already introduced* at Key Stage 3 will form the basis of your GCSE studies:
 - **Rhythm & Metre, Harmony & Tonality, Melody & Texture, Sonority & Dynamics, Structure & Form**
- There are **TWO 'Set Works'** to be learned during the course:
 - '**AFRICA**' by Toto (related to Popular Music)
 - '**BADINERIE**' by J.S. Bach (related to Structures & Devices)
- **Styles / Genres** of music to be covered during the course include:
 - **Rock & Pop, Blues & Jazz, Film & Computer Gaming, Musical Theatre, Stylistic Fusions (Bhangra, Afro-Pop & Afro-Celt), Orchestral & Chamber Music**
- **Musical Periods** to be covered during the course are:
 - **Baroque, Classical & Romantic Periods**



How you will learn:

Musical UNDERSTANDING (40%):

- you will develop your Listening skills, knowledge and understanding of musical concepts, stylistic conventions and related terminology through studying exemplar pieces of music with listening development exercises.

COMPOSING (30%):

- compose **two** coursework compositions in any style/genre using Logic Pro9 music technology;
- totalling a **minimum** of 3 minutes in **combined** length (6 minutes **max.**)
- **one** 'FREE' comp in Year 10 based on a brief/starting point of your **choosing**;
- **one** set 'BRIEF' comp in Year 11 chosen from **four** briefs on offer
- **both** these compositions require a **written log** to evaluate intentions / actions
 - **unlike Key Stage 3, you compose individually on your own**
 - **unlike KS3 you are not required to perform your compositions**

Play that funky music



PERFORMING (30%):

- perform **one** piece as a member of a **group (ensemble)** **and** **another** as either a **soloist** **or** within an **ensemble**;
- totalling a **minimum** of 4 minutes combined (6 minutes **max.**)
- **pieces can be in any style/genre** and by **any composer/artist**.
- *there are also **Music Technology, DJ-ing, Rapping & Beat-Boxing** alternative **options** available for **less-confident** singers / instrumentalists
- **although a standard equivalent to at least grade 3 is desirable by the start of Year 11 you do not need to have taken or passed a music grade exam**
- **unlike Key Stage 3, you are not required to compose your Performance**
- **you give your exam Performance to your teacher only - not the class**
- **ideally, you should be taking instrumental / singing lessons once you have decided to take GCSE music to support both your *progress* and *attainment*.**

How you will be assessed:

UNDERSTANDING (40%)

- = 75 minute C.D-run exam taken at the end of Year 11, marked by an external examiner.
- **eight** listening-based questions in all
- **two** questions per Area of Study with **two** related specifically to the Set Works

COMPOSITIONS (30% combined)

- = marked by your teachers and moderated by an external examiner.
- you will be assessed on the **creative development** and **structuring** of your initial ideas, the **dimensions of music** and the **control** of the chosen **instrumental / vocal resources** within your compositions

PERFORMANCES (30% combined)

- = recorded and marked by your teachers and moderated by an external examiner.
- you will be assessed on the **accuracy, fluency, technical control, tone, musical interpretation** and **expression** within your performances

