



Music GCSE

GCSE

9-1

Edexcel

Who is this course aimed at?	GCSE Music is an option subject. Students who have enjoyed Music at Key Stage 3 will find this subject enjoyable. By the end of Year 11, you must be able to perform on an instrument or sing confidently, by yourself and with others.
How will I be assessed?	GCSE Music has only one exam, which lasts one hour forty-five minutes and takes place at the end of Year 11. This will test your listening skills and knowledge of the set pieces, as well as you applying your skills to unfamiliar pieces of music. Coursework forms the main part of assessment – 60% and is completed during Year 11. Two compositions are to be completed, and solo and ensemble performances will be recorded.
Will I enjoy the course?	You are most likely to enjoy this course if you enjoy performing, listening to a wide range of music and styles, and enjoy composing your own music. You must be able to work effectively in a group as some of your performing coursework has to be completed in an ensemble.
What will be expected of me?	Students should be able to sing or play a number of pieces and must practise regularly, as performing forms 30% of the overall mark. Students will need to spend some of their own time in the Music department, working in groups and becoming familiar with the specialist music software. As a GCSE Music student, you would benefit from attending at least one extra-curricular Music group at School. We offer a wide range to choose from, both instrumental and vocal. You do not need to be able to read music to start this course.

What will I study?

Unit 1 Performing Music	This unit is worth 30% of the final GCSE grade. Students must offer solo performances and performances as part of a group. The performances will be recorded for assessment and will total four minutes in duration.
Unit 2 Composing Music	This unit forms 30% of the final mark. You will compose two pieces of music that will total at least three minutes in duration. One composition is a free choice, the other is set by the exam board.
Unit 3 Listening and Appraising	This unit is worth 40% of the final GCSE grade. Students study eight set pieces, a selection of which will be heard in the exam, along with some unfamiliar extracts. They are from four Areas of Study which cover a wide variety of music