

<b>Q</b>	<b>How many classes will there be for Music GCSE next year?</b>
A	There is likely to be just one GCSE music class next year.
<b>Q</b>	<b>Do I have to put Music as my first option choice to get a place on the course?</b>
A	As a Subject Leader I cannot dictate what options should go in which block, but obviously the first option block is preferable.
<b>Q</b>	<b>Do I need to play an instrument to take Music for GCSE?</b>
A	If you can sing then that would be just as good as playing an instrument.
<b>Q</b>	<b>Do I need to play more than one instrument to take Music for GCSE?</b>
A	No, one instrument or your voice is absolutely fine.
<b>Q</b>	<b>Do I need to be a certain standard or a certain grade to take Music GCSE?</b>
A	In order to access the top mark bands, the expected standard of performances is the equivalent of Grade 4 or above, but you may perform at a slightly lower level. There is no need for any grade examinations to have been taken though.
<b>Q</b>	<b>Is there lots of practical music in Music GCSE like there is in Key Stage 3?</b>
A	With 5 lessons across the two-week timetable, you can expect different styles of lessons. There will be at least one theory lesson, with the others being a mix of composition and practical sessions.
<b>Q</b>	<b>Is Music GCSE difficult?</b>
A	Music GCSE is a step up from Key Stage 3 and the depth of analysis will increase. You will learn new vocabulary, new compositional techniques and new styles of music. If you enjoy music and have a willingness to learn and practice, you will find Music GCSE the right standard.
<b>Q</b>	<b>What are the course requirements for Music GCSE?</b>
A	<p>The GCSE Music course is divided into three components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performing (30%)</li> <li>• Composing (30%)</li> <li>• Appraising (40%)</li> </ul> <p>Here is an overview of each:</p> <p><b>Component 1: Performing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solo performance (at least 1 minute in length)</li> <li>• Ensemble performance (at least 1 minute in length)</li> <li>• Both performances combined must add up to 4 minutes in total</li> <li>• Each performance marked out of 30</li> </ul> <p><b>Component 2: Composing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two compositions, one to a brief set by the exam board and another of your own choosing.</li> <li>• The two compositions must add up to 3 minutes in total.</li> <li>• Each composition marked out of 30.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Component 3: Listening &amp; Appraising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written exam, marked out of 80, which contains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Four Areas of Study, with set works to study in each one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Instrumental Music 1700-1820</li> <li>▪ Vocal Music</li> <li>▪ Music for Stage and Screen</li> <li>▪ Fusions</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Melody/rhythm dictation (aural perception skills).</li> <li>○ Mixture of short answers and an essay.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Q</b>	<b>Do I need to be able to read music fluently to take Music for GCSE?</b>
A	There is no need to be able to read music fluently to take the course. It builds on the work you have done at Key Stage 3 and while we do study scores of music, a basic knowledge is fine. Students who don't read music fluently have scored very highly in this course before.
<b>Q</b>	<b>I already play an instrument so there's no point in taking Music as well</b>
A	Not true! You will learn lots about different styles of music that you haven't studied before and also how to compose music for your instrument / voice. Not to mention the other benefits i.e. increased confidence / ability to work as a team etc
<b>Q</b>	<b>Do you have to perform solo to the rest of the group?</b>
A	There is no pressure to do this at all. You can record your solo pieces in the recording studio by yourself or with one of the music staff accompanying you. You do, however, have to be prepared to perform with other people.
<b>Q</b>	<b>I find Music in Year 9 quite easy. Will it be challenging enough for me?</b>
A	Nobody has ever said they find GCSE Music easy, even if they are already an amazing standard on their instrument. There are lots of parts of the course which are challenging, and of course, fun!
<b>Q</b>	<b>"There's no point in me taking music as a GCSE as I know I don't want to be a musician when I'm older"...</b>
A	Do you think that in your future, you might have to do the following? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present an idea confidently to a group of people?</li> <li>• Organise a group to prepare a piece of work ready for a strict deadline?</li> <li>• Create something new and different that stands out from others' work?</li> <li>• Think on your feet when something goes wrong during a presentation?</li> <li>• Regularly adjust your work and ideas as you go along in order to produce a high-quality finished product?</li> </ul>