

# Music (Limited to 20 places).



## **Audition/interview process if necessary**

The GCSE Music course is suitable for any keen singer, instrumentalist or composer. You do not need to be having instrumental/voice lessons at the moment although it is recommended that you should take advantage of the 50% reduction of the cost of such lessons when you begin the GCSE course. It is never too late to begin learning an instrument and any student who has enjoyed Music up to Year 9 and has an aptitude for the subject may consider the possibility of taking GCSE Music.

## **Performing (30%)**

The pieces performed may be in any style.

- **Solo performing:** candidates perform one solo piece during the course which is assessed by the teacher and recorded for external moderation. (15%)
- **Ensemble performing:** candidates participate in one group performance during the course which is assessed by the teacher and recorded for external moderation. (15%)

**N.B.** You may perform on a second instrument for your ensemble performance if you wish. The teacher must be present at both performances.

## **Composing (30%)**

All composition tasks will be structured and prepared, with teacher guidance, during lessons, but are under controlled assessment.

- **Composition 1** one composition written to a brief, based on one of the Areas of Study (see below). Compositions are done individually, are assessed by the teacher and are also recorded for an external moderator (15%)
- **Composition 2** one composition written to a brief based on a different Area of Study (see below). (15%)

### **Listening and Appraising (40%)**

Students follow four Areas of Study which will involve listening to a wide variety of musical styles, practical musical activities and composing tasks to learn about the musical style being studied. There will be a 1 hour 30 minutes written paper on 12 set works to be taken from:

Area of Study 1: structure in western classical music 1600 - 1899

Area of Study 2: new directions in Western Classical music from 1900

Area of Study 3: popular music in context (dance music 1985 – the present day, Britpop, songs from musicals)

Area of Study 4: Indian raga, African music and fusions

### **Instrumental Tuition**

Tuition is available from visiting staff from the Hertfordshire Music Service in the following: voice, piano, keyboard, flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, recorder, trumpet, trombone and all other brass instruments, violin, lower strings, drum kit, guitar. The school pays 50% for GCSE, AS and A Level Music students for one instrument/voice. More details are available from the school office.

### **Extra-curricular Groups**

It is an essential part of the course that Music students will participate in at least one of the extra-curricular music groups run by the Music department. Membership of a choir, band, etc will be an invaluable musical experience and is crucial to obtaining success in coursework. Failure to do this will be seen as important as missing lessons.

N.B – All students hoping to join the GCSE Music course will be interviewed or auditioned as places are limited.