

## **Current Year 11 GCSE Music**

### **Is it the course for you?**

#### **1. Are you interested in learning about many different styles of music?**

**The AQA course many styles of music some of which you will notice have already covered at in Year 7 and 8.**

There are four areas of study:

##### **Western classical tradition 1650–1910**

- The Coronation Anthems and Oratorios of Handel.
- The Orchestra Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven.
- The piano music of Chopin and Schumann.
- The Requiem of the late Romantic period.

##### **Popular music**

- music of Broadway 1950s to 1990s
- rock music of 1960s and 1970s
- film and computer gaming music 1990s to present
- pop music 1990s to present

##### **Traditional music**

- Blues music from 1920–1950
- Fusion music incorporating African and/or Caribbean music
- Contemporary Latin music
- Contemporary Folk music of the British Isles

##### **Western classical tradition since 1910**

- The orchestral music of Copland
- British music of Arnold, Britten, Maxwell-Davies and Tavener
- The orchestral music of Zoltán Kodály and Béla Bartók
- Minimalist music of John Adams, Steve Reich and Terry Riley

#### **2. Are you able to sing or play an instrument or be willing to learn one?**

Performing is 30% of our final mark. You have to produce one solo performance and one ensemble performance. You can perform music from any style you wish. Your teacher will be on hand to help you make sure it is challenging enough to help you achieve the top grades available.

### **3. Do you like writing your own music and would you like to learn how to create music using computer software packages?**

During the GCSE course you will continue to build on the composition skills you have been developing during year 7 and 8.

Composition is 30% of your final mark. You have to compose a piece of music based on one of the styles you have studied and then the exam board provide a brief for your final composition.

**If the answer is yes to all of the questions above then GCSE music is for you.**

If you have any questions see Mrs Lamb in the music department at lunchtime or ask the pupils already taking the subject, I am sure they will be willing to share their experiences with you. Here is some advice from our current year 11 students:

### **How will you be assessed?**

#### **Understanding music 40%**

- A final exam which lasts 1hour and 30 minutes

#### **Performance 30%**

- At least four minutes of performance work completed in Year 11 including both solo and ensemble pieces (marked by teacher and externally moderated)

#### **Composition 30%**

- Two compositions marked by your teacher and externally moderated

**For further information on the course you could visit:**

**[www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/gcse/music-8271](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/gcse/music-8271)**