

# GCSE MUSIC

**Exam Board & Code:** Edexcel, 1MU0

## **Form of Assessment - Exams and coursework**

**Component 1:** Performing Music - 30%

- Performance 1: Solo Performance
- Performance 2: Ensemble (group) Performance

**Component 2:** Composing Music - 30%

- Composition 1: Composition to a brief
- Composition 2: Free composition (students choose their own style and instrumentation)

**Component 3:** Appraising - 40% (Written exam - 1 hour 45 mins)

- Critically listening to, analysing and answering questions about musical extracts (8 set works and unfamiliar music).

## **Course content**

Performing, composing and listening skills are integrated throughout the course to develop you as a musician. You will develop your knowledge and appreciation of music through these four areas of study:

- Instrumental Music 1700-1820
- Vocal Music
- Music for Stage and Screen
- Fusions

There are numerous performance opportunities throughout the course for you to perform as a soloist and as part of a group. It is important that you engage with a range of live music. There will be trips throughout the course to watch live music as well as masterclasses with professional musicians to develop and hone your skills.

## **Skills and Qualities Required for Success**

Students must play a musical instrument (this includes the voice) that can be used for performances in both solo and ensemble performances.

A genuine passion for this subject is essential. This course is an opportunity to take creative risks, experience on-stage performances and explore independent thinking and group work in a close-knit setting.

## **Futures**

This GCSE Music course provides a solid foundation for AS and A Level as well as preparation for a music related career. Even if music is not a career path, universities prefer students who are well rounded and have skills outside of the chosen subject – GCSE Music demonstrates this well. Aside from this, GCSE Music equips students with

the skills that are preferable to employers such as teamwork, communication, presenting skills, confidence, perseverance and problem solving.

### **Further relevant information**

Attendance at one extra-curricular activity during the course (per week) is compulsory as this supports performance and musical growth.

In order to succeed at GCSE Music, you must be having weekly lessons on your instrument or voice and practise regularly. In some cases, school can offer financial support to those struggling to fund instrumental lessons, depending on whether you are eligible.