

Key Stage 5 – Music

Intent

The KS5 Music curriculum develops confident performers, creative composers, and skilled analysts. Over two years, students refine their performance on their chosen instrument or voice, compose original music, and extend their analytical skills through detailed study of set works and unfamiliar listening. In Year 12, students establish core skills in performance, composition, and analysis while beginning detailed study of set works and their first assessed composition. In Year 13, students focus on advanced analysis of Rock and Pop (1960s–1990s) and the set works by Haydn, Debussy, and Poulenc, alongside preparing a live recital and completing a second composition. The aim of the course is to challenge and inspire students, equipping them with the musical, academic, and creative skills needed for success at A Level and progression to higher education or professional pathways in music.

Implementation

Students have five 55-minute lessons per week, combining individual and group activities such as discussion, composing, rehearsing, performing, and analysis. The KS5 curriculum uses interleaving and retrieval practice, revisiting key skills in different contexts to build confidence and fluency in musicianship. Students refine their performance skills on their chosen instrument or voice, share their work, and celebrate ‘Wow Moments’. Regular performance sessions develop resilience, confidence, and reflective practice. Achievements are recognised through lesson praise, communication with home, the parent bulletin, and the whole-school rewards system.

Impact

By the end of KS5, students will have advanced skills in performance, composition, and analysis across diverse musical genres. They will understand music’s historical development, including the Western Classical Tradition, Early 20th Century music, and Popular Music, and appreciate its impact on audiences and society. Students refine their chosen instrument or voice, delivering confident performances, including a Year 13 solo recital. They also compose advanced pieces and analyse both set works and unfamiliar repertoire. KS5 Music provides opportunities to showcase creativity beyond the classroom through Performing Arts events, celebrating achievements and contributing to the wider school community. By the end of the course, students will have a clear understanding of their strengths as performers, composers, and analysts, and the skills to progress to higher education or professional pathways in music.

Assessment

Assessment in KS5 Music is continuous and varied, encompassing all three strands of the course: performance, composition, and analysis. Students complete regular formative tasks in lessons, alongside formal end-of-unit assessments, to monitor progress and prepare for final A Level examinations.