

Key Stage 4 – Music

Intent	Implementation	Impact
Across Years 10 and 11, GCSE Music provides students with the key musicianship skills needed for analysis, composition, and performance. Students study a wide range of genres, including Blues, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Rock and Pop, and Western Classical Music, and use the elements of music to appraise at an advanced level. They further develop analysis and composition skills through the use of devices and development techniques, and refine their performance skills both as soloists and as part of an ensemble.	Students have five 55-minute lessons over a fortnightly timetable. Lessons include a mixture of individual and group tasks, such as discussion, composing, rehearsing, performing, and analysis using the elements of music. Interleaving and retrieval practice are built into the KS4 curriculum so that students revisit key skills in different contexts, ensuring they gain confidence in the key components of musicianship. Throughout the course, students refine their performance skills on their instrument, share their work, and celebrate ‘Wow Moments’. Regular recording sessions help them to build resilience and confidence in performance while also providing opportunities for reflection and improvement. Students’ achievements are celebrated through praise in lessons, contact with home, the parent bulletin, and the whole-school rewards system.	By the end of the course, students will have developed the key skills of performance, composition, and analysis across a wide range of genres and styles. They will have gained cultural capital and an understanding of how music can influence and impact different audiences. Students will be able to produce effective solo and ensemble performances and will understand how to employ compositional devices and techniques in order to develop musical ideas creatively. In addition, students will have had a positive and enjoyable experience of music, which will allow them to develop a strong understanding of their own strengths as performers and to identify their preferred musical genres.

Assessment

Assessment is continuous throughout the course and takes place through a combination of performance, composition, and listening activities. Students complete regular practice assessments to prepare for the final examination, including short composition tasks, performance recordings, and listening exercises that develop analytical skills. Feedback is given both verbally and in writing, enabling students to reflect on their progress and set clear targets for improvement. Formal assessments are scheduled at key points during the year to monitor progress, while informal classroom tasks provide ongoing opportunities for self-assessment and peer-assessment.