

MUSIC

COURSE DETAILS

Exam Board Edexcel (Specification 1MU0)
Website: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into three sections:

- Unit 1: Performing **30%**
- Unit 2: Composing **30%**
- Unit 3: Appraising **40%**

Unit 1: Performing (*Non-Exam Assessment*)

Students will have the opportunity to perform throughout Years 10 and 11. Each performance will be saved into their performance portfolio. We will submit each student's best solo and best ensemble performance to the exam board.

Unit 2: Composing (*Non-Exam Assessment*)

Students will have the opportunity to compose in various styles throughout Years 10. Each composition will be recorded into their composition portfolio. In Year 11 students will compose two compositions of at least three minutes combined duration. One composition is based on a brief set by Edexcel and the other is a free choice set by the student.

Unit 3: Appraising (*written exam*)

Throughout Years 10 and 11 students will explore in detail eight set works belonging to the following areas of study:

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

This unit is assessed by a formal listening exam at the end of the course.

SETTING ARRANGEMENTS

There is only one music group. The group is mixed ability but a great deal of work is done to ensure that all tasks are differentiated to guarantee all students are working to the best of their ability regardless of their experience or level of skill.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is set on a regular weekly basis and will normally include:

- learning tasks related to information relevant to the listening exam
- students are required to attend lunch time sessions to access music ICT facilities, which will enable them to make progress in their composition coursework.

- preparation of students' performance pieces through regular practice at home and at school
- music rooms at lunch time will be available for solo/ensemble rehearsals to take place

WHAT CAN STUDENTS EXPECT FROM THE COURSE?

The course is taught through a mixture of practical and theory based activities. Students are encouraged to use their own instrumental/vocal skills in practical work as well as developing performing skills in other instrumental/vocal areas. It is not essential that students play an instrument/sing before they start the course but they will be expected to learn instrumental/vocal skills during the course. Weekly peripatetic instrumental/vocal lessons will be provided to all GCSE students at a subsidised cost in order to prepare for the performance coursework. GCSE Music students will have the opportunity to perform at various concerts throughout the school year.

The ICT facilities in Music have recently been upgraded so there are now many opportunities throughout the course to use music technology for recording work and composing using various music software packages. There are also times in the course where students will have the chance to go on visits to experience different styles and genres of music.

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM OUR STUDENTS

The course is quite demanding in terms of self-discipline and time management. The successful student will be motivated to work at home, learning the theory and vocabulary, to get involved with musical activities in school to develop ensemble skills and take responsibility for developing their skills as a solo performer. GCSE Music students are expected to take part in the various concerts throughout the school year.

WHY CHOOSE GCSE MUSIC?

In addition to helping students acquire subject knowledge, this course:

- provides students with the opportunity to gain self-confidence through performing to/with others
- develops team-working skills through performing with others
- extends students' creative skills through composing music
- encourages the understanding of the importance of continuous evaluation and refinement in any process
- provides a solid foundation for progression to music related courses, including A Level Music, and a career in music professions

MS E BROWNLEE