

## What are the aims of this course?

The main aim of this music course is to encourage skills that are useful throughout life. These include concentration, self discipline, coordination, perseverance, self-confidence and esteem as well as relaxation. Music provides all kinds of physical and mental benefits. Study of a musical instrument strengthens cognitive skills as well as auditory memory. Music relaxes the mind and reduces anxiety and depression. Music is a language that brings people together. It is a bridge to connect with others. Music uses communication, creativity, and cooperation to enrich lives. Alongside these benefits this course also aims to improve your performance, composition and listening skills and nurture, support and develop young musicians.

## What will I learn?

'Music is constantly evolving, inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can'. The newly designed, contemporary GCSE qualification offers you the chance to study a wide range of musical genres, with more opportunities for practical learning. GCSE brings theory, listening and composition to life in new and engaging ways, and links to the world around us like never before. You will develop your performance skills through component 2 preparing for two performances. You will also develop your listening, evaluation and analysis skills through the study of many genres of music and will develop your creativity through musical composition, composing one free composition and one set to a given brief.

## Course Outline

Unit Titles	Content	% Unit is Worth
Component 1: Understanding Music	The areas of study provide an appropriate focus for students to appraise, develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical context and musical language. The four areas of study can also provide a rich source of material for your students to work with when developing performance and composition skills.	40 % (96 marks)
Component 2: Performing Music	Students will perform live music using one or both of the following ways: • instrumental (including DJ)/vocal • production via technology. One performance must be as a soloist and one performance must be as part of an ensemble lasting a combined minimum of four minutes. The performance as part of an ensemble must last for a minimum of one minute.	30 % (72 marks)
Component 3: Composing Music	Students will learn how to develop musical ideas, including extending and manipulating musical ideas, and compose music that is musically convincing through two compositions. One must be in response to an externally set brief (Composition 1) and the other a free composition (Composition 2). The combined duration of the compositions must be a minimum of three minutes. Compositions can be composed in any style or genre to best reflect the skills, strengths and interests of the individual students.	30 % (72 marks)

## Progression and Career Opportunities

Music can have a wide range of career options both inside and outside the music industry, including: performer, teacher, administrator, songwriter, conductor, composer, recording engineer, manager, promoter, or music publisher.

There are also more jobs than ever in music business related areas, such as: careers in digital marketing social media, PR, technology, label services, ticketing and merchandising. It is also common to find music graduates in consultancy, finance, banking, music therapy and legal jobs.

## Further Information

### Specification:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/gcse/music-8271>

### Course materials:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/gcse/music-8271/subject-content>

### For more information please contact:

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