

Music

**What is being studied this year**

**Listening:**

There four areas of study each with two set works. Pupils study each work in detail and also should understand the historical background and context of the work. Specific questions relating to these pieces are included in the written exam. One question on this paper will be a comparison of one of the set works to a piece in a similar style/genre. There is also some Musical dictation included in the questions.

**Area of Study 1: Instrumental Music 1700-1820**

 Brandenburg Concerto No 5 J S Bach

 Pathetique Piano Sonata L van Beethoven

**Area of Study 2: Vocal Music**

 Music for a while H Purcell

Killer Queen Queen

**Area of Study 3: Music for Stage and Screen**

 Main title and J Williams

Rebel Blockade runner (from Star Wars IV – A new hope)

Defying gravity (from *Wicked*) S Schwartz

**Area of Study 4: Fusions**

 Release Afro Celt Sound System

 Samba Em Preludio Esperanza Spalding

**Exam Board Details:**

Please give details of the syllabus/ when the exams are/ how long they are.

The Music GCSE course is split into three sections. Two sections are Coursework and the third is a Listening Paper.

The Listening Paper is sat as an exam at the end of Year 11, is 1 hr 45 mins and based on Set works and aural skills developed over the 2 year course.

The other two sections are Performing and Composition.

The weighting of each section is:

Listening 40%

Composition 30%

Performing 30%

**Composition:**

Pupils have to compose two compositions to be completed by March in Year 11. This work will usually be done in lesson time and additional sessions after School are offered on Mondays and Wednesdays.

One is a free composition; the style, instrumentation, structure is entirely up to the pupil. The other is a set Brief set by the exam board and released to Schools in September of Year 11. Ideally the Free composition would be completed in Year 10 and the Brief in Year 11.

Compositions have to be submitted with a score and an audio recording. The performances of the compositions are not marked!

**Performance:**

Pupils have to do two performances. A Solo and an Ensemble performance.

Each performance has to be at least one minute long, they can play more than one piece for each performance, and the combined time of both music be at least 4 minutes long.

Solo performance:

Pupils must play one, or more, solo pieces of their own choice and these can be in any style.

Ensemble performance:

In the Ensemble piece, there must be at least two playing or singing, and parts should not be doubled by any other part. The piece can be any style but this must be a different piece to the one played as a solo.

Marks are awarded to each piece for: Technique, Expression and Interpretation and Accuracy and Fluency.

**What Can You Do To Support Your Child?**

**Performance:**

Pupils have to do two performances. A Solo and an Ensemble performance. Regular practice is the best preparation for this part of the course and whilst some lesson time can be allocated for Ensemble practice most solo practice is likely to be done at home, so regular supervision of this is recommended.

**Resources and Revision:**

The School has a set of the text books CPG GCSE Music Edexcel [www.cpgbooks.co.uk](http://www.cpgbooks.co.uk)

The GCSE Music Revision Guide is also a very useful and easy to use resource [www.rhinegoldeducation.co.uk](http://www.rhinegoldeducation.co.uk)