

Exam Board: AQA

Course Overview

The course covers performing, composing, listening, and appraising.

Course Breakdown

- Performance can be on any instrument or voice. A piece of about grade 4/5 standard would gain the top grade if performed perfectly. (Any style of music is acceptable.) Ongoing practice is expected as homework.
- Composing techniques are explored in Year 10.
- 10 – 15 minutes of each lesson is used to develop listening skills and knowledge.
- The rest of the time in lessons is used for practical performing and composing.

Assessment

Internal

Solo and Ensemble performance

First composition.

External

Second Composition

Listening Exam.

Coursework Requirements

- First composition completed by December of Year 11.
- One solo performance recorded by December of Year 11.
- One ensemble performance recorded by April of Year 11.
- Second composition completed by April of Year 11.
- Listening exam taken in May of Year 11.

Qualities needed for success in the course:

- Ability to play an instrument or sing. (It is possible to be a near beginner and still pass the GCSE but there would be a great deal of ground to catch up on.)
- Lessons on the students' own instrument or voice would be an advantage. Some lessons are available at school. The College will subsidise lessons for students who are categorised as Pupil Premium.
- Motivation to practise more or less every day.
- Ability to work independently.
- A passion for music.
- (Ability to read music is not necessary.)

Possible paths in Post 16:

A level Music / A level Performing Arts / BTEC Music Performing / BTEC Music Composing

