

Music at County Upper

Key Stage 4



Curriculum Aims

KS4 Music will provide a contemporary, accessible and creative education in Music with an integrated approach to the three main elements – performing, composing and appraising.

Currently, we follow the OCR GCSE Music 9-1 course, although this is under review.

What will you see in music lessons?

Music at KS4 is a mixture of theory, listening, performance and composition. Each component of the 4 Areas of Study is studied in depth, encompassing a wide range of learning activities.

A typical topic studied might begin by immersing in the musical style through whole class performance. This would be followed up by discussion of features and techniques used, introduction of key terms and vocabulary pertinent to that topic, a listening exercise to consolidate learning, and lastly a composition project based on the topic.

What formative assessment will you see in music?

Frequent verbal feedback on performance and composition (including modelling to aid further progression) happens during each lesson. This may take the form of an individual "consultation" or more informal group feedback immediately following a performance. More formal listening, performance and composition assessment will take place throughout the two-year course, with follow-up timely feedback to students. Students are also encouraged and given the opportunity to appraise their own and others' performances - using both oral and written methods.

What will you see in students' books?

We are increasingly moving away from paper-based working: compositions are recorded onto the iMacs (and increasingly stored in the Cloud), performance is recorded onto an audio device and uploaded to the Google Drive, and written notes for revision are shared through the Drive or Google Classroom. Listening tests, at present, mostly use printed papers, but the hope is that in future, these too will be issued and marked online.

What is the faculty currently listening to and why?

I am currently listening to: Evdokias (Greek folk music)

Why? This is to support my understanding of one of the components of the Rhythms of the World Area of Study - Greek, Israeli & Palestinian music.

Curriculum Content and sequencing

Year 1:

Autumn Term - Film Music, Composition Techniques, Starting Performance, Developing Musical Vocabulary Spring Term - Rhythms Around The World, Further Compositional Techniques, Extended Composing Summer Term - Popular Music, Ensemble Performance, Free Composition Coursework, Listening Exam

Year 2:

Autumn Term - The Concerto Through Time, Set Composition, Ensemble Performance Exam Spring Term - Revision of all topics, Solo Performance Exam, Exam Technique, Composition Coursework completion and revision

Summer Term - Final Revision and Exam Technique