GCSE Music

GCSE Music is a vary varied and exciting option to take. You will study a wide range of activities including performing, composing and learning about different styles of music.

Personal Attributes Required:
You need to be willing to develop your instrumental or vocal skills to a reasonable standard. You must attend weekly instrument/ vocal lessons which are/can be either inside or outside of school. The ability to read music is helpful but not essential. You need to work hard and work well with others.

How will Music help me in the future?
GCSE Music will show employers you have much needed creative skills – a vital tool in current and future employment situations. GCSE Music will show that you have a wide range of interests and skills, and that you have demonstrated your dedication and commitment to learning a musical instrument, playing in a musical ensemble and to studying music. GCSE Music can also help with confidence and performance skills needed in situations such as job interviews. Music GCSE is hard work, but equally one of the most enjoyable subjects to learn and succeed in.

Homework Expectations:
There is an expectation that students will complete a range of written and research tasks throughout the course. Students will also be expected to rehearse their chosen instrument or voice weekly, participate in a musical ensemble and attend additional performance sessions rehearsals when necessary, and work on their composition coursework outside of lesson time.

GCSE Music is made up of three components:

- **Listening & appraising exam (40%):** An exam paper with listening exercises and written questions using excerpts of music testing both familiar (based on specific areas of study) and unfamiliar pieces.
- **Composition (30%):** Students compose two pieces of music. One is a free choice and one is linked to a brief set by the exam board.
- **Performances (30%):** Students perform two pieces of music; one as an ensemble (group piece) and one linked to one of the areas of study. Grade 3 is the standard level.