

## Course Outline

There are three areas of study in GCSE Music and students must complete them all. Students will be expected to be musicians, to play an instrument and be serious about their work. They learn about musical language and explore the elements underlying the organisation of sound, through listening to music, performing individually and in a group, composing and appraising music. Opportunities will be provided to visit professional performances to enhance composition and performance skills and see how music creates atmosphere, mood and excitement on stage.

This specification encourages students to:

- develop their own musical interests and skills including the ability to make music individually and in groups and to use music technology to realise and enhance their compositions.
- evaluate their own and others' music.
- understand and appreciate a range of different kinds of music from different genres and cultures from all over the world.
- actively engage in the process of music study in order to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.

**Assessment (60% practical portfolio (coursework) 40% listening exam).**

### Unit 1 – Performing (30%)

Students must perform:

- a) One 'Individual Performance' lasting about two minutes;
- b) One 'Group Performance', lasting about two minutes but combined both pieces must total over 4 minutes.

### Unit 2 - Composing (30%)

Students must compose:

- a) One free composition for any combination of instrumental or vocal sounds and any genre;
- b) One composition linked to an exam board set musical brief showing strands linked to musical elements and areas of study learnt for the listening exam (listed below).

### Unit 3 – Appraising (40%)

A study of 4 areas of music – Concerto through Time, Rhythms of the World, Film and Programme Music and Conventions through Pop. This is assessed by completing a listening exam in two sections lasting 1 hour 30 minutes.

### Progression/further study

A-level/BTEC Level 3 at College followed by Bachelor of Arts/Masters/Postgraduate and University. Many organisations target graduates from Performing Arts courses. The skills taught can lead to jobs in music production, music composition, performing, teaching, sound engineering, music therapy, radio, theatre work, as well as events management, community arts projects and arts administration.