MUSIC

Syllabus: PEARSON EDEXCEL GCSE MUSIC 1MU0

Please consult: Miss S Neville

What we aim to do

You should choose GCSE Music if you enjoy performing, composing and listening to music. You will be introduced to a wide variety of musical styles, from popular music to jazz, world music to Western classical music. You will also use Music Technology to compose with. You have to be a performer on an instrument or voice to access the course. If you don't play an instrument or sing please look at the Music technology course that will run alongside the GCSE. Music GCSE is aimed at students who love performing music. Vocalists do very well at GCSE and you don't need to be a confident note reader. Your specific skills and interests in music will be included in all your lessons.

What we study

The qualification has a straightforward structure with three engaging components, assessed through practical performances, compositions and one externally examined paper. The key content of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language are taught through the areas of study and Set Works to show real examples of how these are used within different types of music. GCSE Music contains four areas of study, with two Set Works in each: Instrumental Music (1700-1820); Vocal Music; Music for Stage and Screen and Fusions. Examples of Set Works include music from 'Star Wars' by John Williams, 'Defying Gravity' from Wicked and 'Killer Queen' by Queen.

Skills needed

A certain level of note reading is advisable to access the new GCSE course but student will be taught essential theory at the start of the course. There will be extra theory classes for students if required. All GCSE students attend Senior Choir to develop their performance and communication skills.

How your work will be assessed

There is a 1 hour 45 minute listening exam where extracts of Set Works will be played. There is short dictation question and a listening question on an unfamiliar piece of music that comes with a skeleton score. The last question is an extended writing question where students have to compare two pieces of music, one familiar and one unfamiliar. Scores are provided for this question.

Coursework is worth 60% of the course:

- Two performances: one solo and one ensemble piece (the performance can be played on any instrument/voice)
- Two compositions: Two pieces of music written in different styles, one set in a choice of briefs by Edexcel.

What this subject can lead to when you finish Year 11 at The Hollyfield School

The content allows students to develop their knowledge and skills of music, enabling them to progress onto the A Level qualification in Music. Music and Music are both available as A-level subjects.

Possible careers

Equipped with an awareness of musical genres and styles; performing, listening, composing skills and music technology proficiency, you will be well equipped to pursue a career in the Music industry or Media industry. GCSE Music also offers a wealth of transferable skills relevant to ongoing musical and non-musical study as well as to future career development, including: literacy, critical thinking, social skills and team work, leadership and communication, time management and organisational skills. These qualifications will give you the opportunity to work in a wide range of exciting careers including:

Producer (recording musicians and making records), Music Engineer (working in a studio such as Abbey Road), Folio Artist (working with sound effects on the radio), Composer (creating original music for films)

Additional information/special requirements

All students wishing to take GCSE music must play an instrument (this includes voice).

Relevant website links for further information on the course/subject

Specification: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.html

Careers: http://www.ism.org/news/article/careers_with_music_general_information

http://www.creative-choices.co.uk/industry-insight/inside/music

http://www.bbc.co.uk/1xtra/events/get_aheadaz.shtml