



Music FAQs

Am I still able to take GCSE Music if I don't play an instrument?

Do not be put off if you do not play an instrument, many people that take GCSE music as an option end up singing. You will need to enjoy singing and willing to perform regularly as part of the course.

I am not able to read music, does that matter?

The first term is an introduction to GCSE and during this term you will learn to read music much more confidently, so do not let that put you off.

What level do I need to be on my instrument/voice?

You will need to be at a grade 3 level when starting the course, if you are currently working at around a grade 2 level it is still a possibility. The best thing to do is speak to your music teacher about this.

Will I be given instrumental lessons as part of the course?

No, you will be expected to continue with your own private lessons with your instrumental teacher. You will be given regular mentor meetings in school with the music department who will help you prepare for the performance exam.

How do I know if I am good at composing when I have not done it this year?

Please do not be put off by the lack of practical work this year. One of the most exciting parts of the GCSE course is actually the composition component.

What software do you use for composition?

We will teach you all the skills needed to compose on either your own instrument /Sibelius (notation software) /Garageband/Logic (sequencing software).

What style of music do I need to compose?

One composition is a brief set by the exam board and often this can be applied to many genres. The second composition is your own free choice!