



Music

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

At Key Stage 4, students can choose GCSE Music or Music Technology.

GCSE Music

Qualification OCR GCSE Music (J536).

Unit	Topic	What students learn	Term
Year 10			
Area of Study 5	Conventions of Pop	Rock 'n' Roll, rock anthems, pop ballads and solo artists from 1990 to today: harmony, rhythm, structure, instruments and the role of technology; listening practice and a rock anthem performance workshop; end-of-unit assessment.	Autumn 1
Area of Study 1	Composing in a Pop Style (mock composition 1)	Building chords, progressions and cadences; piano accompaniment patterns; creating and developing melodic motifs, phrasing and bass lines; structure and contrast; composing and reviewing a piece to a mock brief.	Autumn 2
Area of Study 2	The Concerto Through Time	The concerto from 1650 to 1910: the Baroque concerto grosso and solo concerto, the Classical concerto and cadenza, and the Romantic concerto; comparative listening and an end-of-unit assessment.	Spring 1
Area of Study 1	Developing Themes in Composition	Developing a motif through sequence, rhythmic and melodic transformation, harmony, modulation, texture, timbre and expression; planning structure and contrast; completing and reflecting on a polished composition.	Spring 2
Area of Study 4	Film Music, including composition	The functions of screen music, diegetic and non-diegetic sound, leitmotifs and dramatic effects; technology and video-game music; composing and synchronising a film cue to a clip; listening assessment.	Summer 1
Year 11			
Non-examined assessment (NEA)	Composing to an OCR set brief	Choosing a set brief and writing an intention; research, initial ideas and structure; developing harmony, melody, texture and timbre; refining against the OCR criteria and submitting the final composition.	Autumn 1
	Free composition	Choosing a genre and forces, studying models, developing and redrafting ideas with peer critique, refining detail and accuracy, and submitting the composition.	Autumn 2
Area of Study 4	Film Music – consolidation	Revisiting mood, leitmotif, dramatic effects, musical elements, technology, video-game music and named composers; short-answer and extended comparison technique; timed assessment.	Autumn 2

Unit	Topic	What students learn	Term
Area of Study 2	The Concerto Through Time – revisit	Revisiting Baroque, Classical and Romantic concertos; identifying periods by ear and score; comparing how the concerto developed; exam practice and timed assessment.	Spring 1
Component 05	Listening and appraising revision	A revision audit, then revision of Pop, Film Music, Rhythms of the World and the Concerto; a full timed listening paper and final exam preparation.	Spring 2

Music Technology

Qualification NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Technology (603/7008/7).

Unit	Topic	What students learn	Term
Year 10			
Content Area 2	The Digital Audio Workstation (DAW)	Computer hardware, audio interfaces, MIDI controllers and signal flow; setting up projects; recording, programming and editing MIDI; synthesis, sampling and loops; recording and editing audio; automation, effects, EQ and dynamics; an integrated DAW project.	Autumn
Content Area 1	The music industry and the development of music technology	Creative, technical and business roles in the industry; the history of recording, synthesisers, samplers, drum machines and effects; formats from vinyl to streaming; market research, branding, marketing, promotion, distribution and royalties; unit assessment.	Autumn
Content Area 3	Musical elements, style and technology: composition development	Structure and form, scales, melody, chords and accompaniment, metre and rhythm; acoustic and electronic instruments; styles and technology from the 1950s to the 2000s; planning, producing and evaluating a DAW composition.	Spring / Summer
Content Area 5	Multitrack recording	The studio, signal flow, microphones and monitoring; studio health and safety and session roles; planning a session, microphone placement and gain; recording and overdubbing; editing, balance, EQ, effects and a stereo mixdown.	Summer
Year 11			
Content Area 5	Multitrack recording – consolidation	Planning and running recording sessions: choosing microphones and recording drums, bass, guitar, acoustic instruments and vocals, then reviewing the session.	Autumn
Content Area 4	Sound creation	Sound for media: Foley, spot effects and sound libraries, synchronising to video, sampling, environmental recording (XY and mid-side), synthesis for effects and underscore, voice-over and dialogue; a sound-creation project and assessment.	Autumn
Non-exam assessment (NEA)	Synoptic project	Completing the synoptic project under exam conditions: interpreting a vocational brief, planning, creating and technically processing a music technology product, then evaluating it and submitting the portfolio.	Spring
Content Area 1 and external assessment	Music industry and exam revision	Revision of industry roles, the history of recording and electronic instruments, formats, marketing, promotion and distribution; a full mock exam and final retrieval.	Summer