

# YEAR 9 PERFORMING ARTS

Our Year 9 cohort follow a bespoke Performing Arts curriculum where skills of drama, music, theory, performing, dance and ensemble work are developed. In the first term, all students will perform in our Shakespeare for Schools festival, celebrated with a prestigious event in the Sony Theatre in Bridgend. At the end of Year 9, students may opt to take either GCSE Drama or GCSE Music (or in some cases, both).



## GCSE DRAMA

GCSE Drama offers candidates interested in the theatre the opportunity to develop their skills in either acting or production. Candidates explore and improve their skills through a combination of practical work and a written exam. The study course consists of three units:

### Unit 1: Devising Theatre (40%)

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated  
Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre based on either the work of a theatre practitioner or a genre in response to a stimulus set by WJEC. They have to complete a written evaluation of the devised performance under formal supervision. Learners will be assessed on either acting or design and work in groups of between two and five performers.

### Unit 2: Performing Theatre (20%)

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner  
Learners participate in a performance based on two 10 minute extracts from a performance text of their own choice. Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners work in groups of between two and four performers.



### Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre (40%)

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

#### Section A: Set Text

A series of questions on one set text explored as an actor, designer and director from a choice of five, one of which will be a Shakespeare play. Set texts are due for release in Autumn 2021.

#### Section B: Live Theatre Review

One question, from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of one live theatre production seen during the course.

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## GCSE MUSIC

The syllabus is designed to offer candidates a valid and challenging course based on the three primary musical activities of listening, performing and composing. Students must be grade three or above on vocals or an instrument by Year 11 for the performing element of the course.

Candidates are to explore and develop musical skills through four areas of study, into which performing, composing and appraising activities are to be integrated:

1. Musical Forms and Devices
2. Music for Ensembles
3. Film Music
4. Popular Music



Candidates will be expected to compose a variety of pieces in various styles and moods, stimulated by the study of the four topics listed above. Two contrasting pieces of music will be selected for submission to the WJEC accompanied by an evaluation written by the pupil outlining the processes involved in producing these compositions (35%).

Candidates will be expected to perform regularly, in solo and ensemble situations, to the other members of the GCSE Music class. At the end of the course candidates will perform a vocal or instrumental solo and will perform as part of an ensemble (35%).

Candidates are to study and listen to music of the four areas of study listed above. At the end of the course, an appraising examination is to be sat in which pupils are to identify and comment on music of the four areas of study (30%).

**All pupils opting to take GCSE Music will be expected to support the extra-curricular activities organised by the Music Department.**