

MUSIC (Fast Track)

The syllabus is designed to offer candidates a valid and challenging course based on the three primary musical activities of listening, performing and composing **and is only available to pupils who already play an instrument or sing at a Grade 2 standard or above.**

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

- a. Music in Wales
- b. Musical Forms and Devices
- c. Music for Stage and Screen
- d. Music Evolution

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 a commentary written by the pupil outlining the processes involved in producing these compositions (30%).

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 to a visiting examiner who will moderate the marks given by the classroom teacher (30%).



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 (40%).

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

VOCATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS

Students studying Performing Arts will enjoy the practical activities involved in developing their performance skills in music and drama. There are also opportunities for dancers (if pupils already dance outside school) and pupils interested in production skills such as lighting, sound and costumes.

There is no final written exam for this course but extensive practice will be required in pupils own time in order to develop their skills. All students must be prepared to perform in front of an audience as assessment will take the form of a showcase performance, which pupils will plan, prepare and produce. A written portfolio will be produced as well as a video of the final performance.

Other areas covered during the course will include research into jobs in the Performing Arts industry, creating a plan for staging a production, production skills, watching live performances and taking part in workshops.

Performing Arts is an ideal choice for those already interested in music, acting or dance; as well as developing their skills in the subject pupils will gain in confidence, experience and independence as they work towards their goals.

Please note that pupils taking Performing Arts will be expected to take part in extra-curricular activities within the school.

