

## **MUSIC (Advanced Higher)**

*This is a campus course at Perth Academy in column D*

### **What are the aims of this course?**

The main aim of the Music Department is to provide a positive and stimulating learning experience through a combination of practical and theoretical elements, ultimately culminating in performance. Learners must be able to perform at Grade 5 or higher for their final performance exam in May. Advanced Higher Music provides you with the skills you need to perform challenging music with musical and technical accuracy and fluency, while realising the composers' intentions. It also provides you with opportunities to develop composing skills in sophisticated and creative ways. Further, the Course also helps you develop advanced aural skills and demonstrate your understanding and analysis of music through researching and analysing complete movements or works. The course provides scope for you to broaden and deepen your understanding of music through the in-depth study and analysis of a selected area of music. You will become more autonomous as you develop the ability to think independently and to self-direct and manage your learning. You can also develop and extend many other skills, including flexibility and adaptability; perseverance, independence and resilience; responsibility and reliability; and confidence.

### **What will I be learning about in this course?**

There are **3** units in the course plus a course assessment consisting of a performance exam and listening paper.

#### **1. Performing Skills**

You will develop your performing skills on 2 instruments (or 1 instrument and voice) to a high level of accuracy maintaining the musical flow. You will learn to apply performance directions such as dynamics, phrasing and to create an effective and confident performance. Performance can take place as solo or part of a group.

#### **2. Composing Skills**

You will develop the ability to create original music using a variety of compositional methods and music concepts. You will create a folio of work demonstrating your ability to listen to and analyse music, understand the composer's intentions and develop your own musical ideas within a variety of styles.

#### **3. Understanding Music (Listening)**

In this Unit, through listening, you will develop your understanding of music styles, concepts and literacy. You will work independently, demonstrating aural skills and an in-depth understanding of music and music concepts when investigating, analysing and commenting on sections of musical movements or works. You will also demonstrate the ability to analyse the impact of social and cultural influences on your selected music.

### **Course Assessment**

You will prepare and perform a programme of music on 2 instruments or 1 instrument and voice lasting 15 minutes in total in solo and/or group settings to a visiting SQA examiner in May of your presentation year. This may be an instrument on which you have been receiving lessons within the school or privately or it may be on a 'classroom-based' instrument like electronic keyboard, drum-kit, guitar, voice or tuned percussion. Home practice is essential to make real progress, although there is access to instruments in the department in agreement with teaching staff. This equates to 60% of your final course assessment

You will also sit a listening exam in May where you will identify level specific concepts in musical excerpts and annotate a piece of music using music literacy signs and symbols. This equates to 40% of your final course assessment.

**To gain Advanced Higher, you must pass ALL 3 units (which are internally assessed) and the course assessment.**