

MUSIC (Higher)

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 4 or higher for their final performance exam in February/March.

What will I be learning about in this course?

There are **3** main areas of the course plus final assessment consisting of a composition submission, 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 composer's intentions and develop your own musical ideas within a variety of styles. You will be required to submit composition to the SQA for assessment in March. This will be worth 15% of your overall mark

3. Understanding Music (Listening)

Understanding music as you listen to it helps you to enjoy it even more. Much of the course is concept based. You will study a variety of different styles and genres of music, and will learn how to identify level specific concepts in the music. Research into the social and cultural factors influencing music will also take place in this unit. You will develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of music and music literacy.

Course Assessment

You will prepare and perform a programme of music on 2 instruments or 1 instrument and voice lasting 12 minutes in total in solo and/or group settings to a visiting SQA examiner in February/March 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 50% 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 35% of your final course assessment. Your composition assignment makes up the remaining 15%.

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

All learners will have the opportunity to learn through whole class teaching, one-to-one tuition and solo/group work. Personalisation and choice is built in to the course through the choice of performance pieces, composition style and research work.
Coursework is delivered by topic.

What are the homework requirements?

Emphasis is placed on home practise with pupils expected to practise at home weekly or by agreement with staff to use department facilities. These skills are encouraged throughout their school careers as most emphasis is placed on practical work and performance ability in Music. On occasion, written/research based homework will be given where required, to extend and demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a particular style/era of music and music literacy.

What might this course lead to in the future?

Pupils who achieve well will be encouraged to further their skills by progressing to Advanced Higher.
The course fosters an appreciation for a wide range of styles and genres of music from around the world.
Learners develop skills for learning, life and work such as working collaboratively and individually, researching, evaluating, presenting, communicating and creating.
Learners will appreciate Music as a form of relaxation and enjoyment.
Careers in Music may include performing, teaching and sound engineering and production

Journal of progress and reflection

Learners will maintain a written journal, in class, and for homework.
This should include a timeline of progress through planning and practise, and show reflection of their accomplishments.