

Advanced Higher Music

Aim of courses

To ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to create, perform and respond positively to music. Pupils will be encouraged, across a range of abilities, to develop their skills through a variety of activities, opportunities and experiences.

Why study Music?

Music courses allow pupils to develop their creativity, organisation and confidence through performing, composing and listening to Music. The level of discipline required and developed by this subject is highly transferrable and the experience of making music is extremely motivating and rewarding. This course allows you to develop the skills and knowledge required to proceed to further study and/or follow a career in music.

Entry to the Course

You would normally be expected to have attained one of the following:

- An award at Higher.
- Appropriate experience of playing two instruments, or one instrument and voice at Grade 4 level (ABRSM) or equivalent.

The course consists of three units:

- **Performing Skills (60 marks)**
 - Play two instruments, or one instrument and voice.
 - Perform at least 2 pieces on each instrument.
 - Perform a programme of pieces, 18 minutes in total, between the two instruments.
 - Perform at least 6 minutes on one instrument.
- **Composing Skills**
 - Creating music using appropriate Advanced Higher level concepts.
 - Compose, improvise and/or arrange your own music.
 - Record examples of your composing.
 - Provide evidence of progress in creating music in different styles.
- **Understanding and Analysing Music - Listening (40 marks)**
 - Listen to music from a variety of musical styles.
 - Identify and recognise specific music concepts, as well as music signs and symbols used in music notation.
 - Question paper based on recorded excerpts of music and musical literacy.
- **Understanding and Analysing Music - Dissertation**
 - An in-depth analysis and comparison/contrast of two separate works, approximately 1500 words.

Course Assessment

Learners will be assessed through either a performance or a portfolio. All learners will also complete a common question paper.

For the performance, learners will prepare and perform a programme of music on two selected instruments or on one selected instrument and voice. This activity will be underpinned by knowledge and understanding of music. It will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice.

For the portfolio option, learners will produce a folio of original music. The portfolio will consist of compositions and/or arrangements and/or improvisations. This activity will be underpinned by knowledge and understanding of music and will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice.

The question paper will allow learners to demonstrate a depth of conceptual knowledge and understanding of music, music concepts, and musical literacy developed across the Units and the Course.

- Advanced Higher is assessed externally and graded A-D, based on the performance grade (SQA examiner in May) and Listening Paper (May).
- Candidates are required to pass all three units detailed above in order to achieve the course award.

Further advice and information is available from Mr McIntyre and Ms Miller