

Advanced Higher Music

Aim of course

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 skills developed by this subject are highly transferable 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 leading to a variety of careers including 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 assessed elements:

→ Performing Skills (60 marks- scaled to 50%)

- Play two instruments, or one instrument and voice.
- Perform at least 2 pieces on each instrument/voice.
- Perform a varied programme of pieces, 18 minutes in total, between the two instruments/voice with at least 6 minutes on one instrument.
- If pupils choose the portfolio option they would perform on one instrument/voice (30 marks- 25%) and complete an additional composition/arrangement (30 marks-25%)

→ Composing and Analysis Skills (20 marks- scaled to 15%)

- Plan a composition/arrangement.
- Explore and develop musical ideas using all of the musical elements of melody, harmony, rhythm, structure and timbre
- create one complete piece of music/arrangement.
- Evaluate the composition/arranging process.
- Complete an analysis of a piece of music, identifying key compositional features and concepts. This will be approximately 800 words.

→ Understanding Music - Listening (40 marks- scaled to 35%)

- 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.

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 (external SQA examiner in May), Assignment grade (SQA uplift in April) and Listening Paper (May).

Further advice and information is available from Mr McIntyre and Mrs Barrie