

## **MUSIC GCSE**

### **What are the key features?**

The three main elements of the OCR GCSE in Music course are performing, composing and appraising (listening and answering questions). Underpinning these elements are five Areas of Study that cover a wide range of musical styles including Classical, Pop, Film and World music.

Students will perform regularly on their chosen instrument/voice, both individually and in groups. It is expected that students will practise regularly outside of lesson time as part of their homework. Composition work can be in any style and will be completed using music ICT (e.g. GarageBand).

### **How is it assessed?**

Students will submit recordings of two performances. These will include solo and ensemble work. They will also submit two compositions that have been completed throughout the course. There is one written exam at the end of the course. This is a ninety minute listening exam which tests knowledge of the five Areas of Study gained over the two years.

Performing 30%

Composing 30%

Listening exam 40%

### **What particular skills are required to succeed?**

Students must be interested in Music and have the desire to improve their performance skills on at least one instrument or voice. Studying an instrument out of school, such as through the Jersey Music Service or Chordz, would be an advantage, but is not a necessity. An interest in using Music Technology (such as GarageBand) would also be an advantage.

### **Why study this course?**

Music is a highly creative subject and students should study this course if they have a love of music and enjoy performing and composing. Music is also very academic and theory/analysis skills make up 40% of the course. It is an opportunity to improve instrumental skills as well as learn about a diverse range of musical styles and genres. The listening paper enables learners to develop their listening, analysis and critical evaluation skills.

### **What equipment is required?**

Students should ideally have access to necessary resources, outside of school, to enable them practise their chosen instrument or voice. Depending on the instrument they may also need to bring it to lessons. Guitars, keyboards and drum kits are available in school and can be used at lunchtimes and after school by arrangement.

### **If I have any questions which teacher do I ask?**

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