

# Course Description

## Music GCE

### Course Description Linear A Level

#### Component 1: Performing (30%)

**A performance of one or more pieces performed as a recital to a small audience.**

- Performance can be playing/singing solo or in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music using music technology.
- The total performance time across all pieces must be a minimum of 8 minutes.
- Performances must be recorded (video and audio) in front of a small audience after 1 March 2020.

#### Component 2: Composing (30%)

**Total of two compositions:** Combination of free choice and working to a brief.

- Composition one can be either linked to a brief set by Edexcel, which relates to an area of study, or can be a free composition to a brief of the candidate's own setting. This composition carries 40 marks for this component and must be at least 4 minutes in duration.
- Composition two must link to one of the listed briefs assessing compositional technique. This composition carries 20 marks for this component and must be at least 1 minute in duration, unless the brief specifies a longer minimum duration.
- Total time across both submissions must be a minimum of 6 minutes.

#### Component 3: Appraising (40%)

**One written paper of 2 hours, with audio extracts.**

- Section A: Areas of study and dictation (50 marks)
  - Three questions related to the set works (audio and skeleton score provided).
  - One short melody/rhythm completion exercise.
- Section B: Extended response
  - Two essay questions – essay one (20 marks) and essay two (30 marks)
  - Essay one asks students to draw links from their study of the set works to the music heard as an unfamiliar extract.
  - Essay two gives a choice of three questions that ask students to evaluate the musical elements, context and language of one set work. Each option will be from a different area of study.

**The six areas of study, each with three set works are as follows:**

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz
- Fusions
- New Directions

#### Entry Criteria

GCSE Grade 6 or above in Music.

If you would be interested in BTEC Level 3 Music Performance please speak to Mrs Thompson.