

What will I learn?

Students learn musically in three areas: Performance, Composition and Appraising. In Performance, students develop their skills using their chosen instrument or voice. In Composition, students learn to write their own music (acoustically and/or using technology) and choose from a wide variety of styles in which to do this. Students also study eight 'Set Works', and analyse a wide range of music from across the areas of study.

How will I be assessed?

In April of Year 11, students submit solo and ensemble performances totaling four minutes (worth 30%), and two compositions (worth 15% each). In the Summer exam series students sit a Listening and Appraising Exam based on the eight set works mentioned above, and aural and comparative tasks based on two pieces of unfamiliar music. Students are given regular verbal and written feedback. Student work is videoed and recorded, along with recorded verbal feedback to create a personal record.

How will I be taught?

Students are taught by three teachers in a variety of different groupings according to their level of experience, and in relation to the particular learning taking place. Much emphasis is placed on musical progress: learning to play extracts from the set works, singing, listening, large/small group performance, and composition. Students also benefit from one-to-one learning from peripatetic teachers or other specialists available to them in the music department e.g. our Music in Residence and our Music Technology specialist. Students are encouraged to work outside of lesson time by participating in musical ensembles and choirs, and by using the resources available (instruments, Apple Macs and practice rooms) to further their development as musicians. Great emphasis is placed on musical understanding; students will learn *in* Music, not *about* Music.

Students are given many opportunities to take part in our range of extra-curricular ensembles, which cater for the beginner to the advanced post grade eight player. These include Wind Band, Symphony Orchestra, String Orchestra, Ex Silentio (Chamber Choir), Stage Band, Guitar club, African drumming club, Clarinet Group and Brass Group, and a range of other chamber ensembles.