

MUSIC - HIGHER

What are the aims of this course

To develop skills/interests in **Performing**, **Listening** and **Composition** through the exploration of a wide variety of musical styles.

What are the recommended entry levels for this course?

Students who obtain a pass at National 5 normally progress to Higher (provided that they have satisfactory composing and listening skills and have continued to progress on **two** instruments). It is sometimes possible for those with no previous course or unit experience to enter at an appropriate level. However, a 'course award' requires performing, listening and composing skills and being a good performing musician alone is unlikely to be sufficient to enter at 'Higher' level. In any case, all pupils are strongly advised to consult music staff **before** choosing this course.

What content is included in this course?

The course consists of 3 units: **Performing**, **Composing** and **Understanding Music** (Listening and music literacy).

What skills will I develop.

Performing: Pupils will gain experience on 2 instruments (at minimum grade 4 standard or equivalent) or instrument/voice. They may play/sing solo and/or in a group in a wide variety of styles. In addition, pupils will be asked to provide evidence of critical reflection on their performances.

Composing: Pupils will be given the opportunity to develop composing skills in a variety of styles, including traditional and classical, through rock to soundtrack. They will be encouraged to make full use of music technology, including the recording studio and midi/notation software.

Understanding Music: Pupils will listen to a wide variety of music, including scottish, world, jazz, rock and classical. For assessment purposes, they will be asked to identify specific features, demonstrate an understanding of music literacy and show an awareness of cultural influences.

What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

Students practise/compose/record either individually or in small groups, while listening is the only whole-class activity. Extensive use will be made of Internet and ICT resources. Students will be expected to take a high degree of individual responsibility for their learning.

How will I be assessed?

All 3 units must be passed and are assessed internally. **External** assessment consists of a final **Listening** exam (40%), in which students will be asked to identify specific features and answer questions focusing on music literacy. They must also give a **live performance** to a visiting examiner during February/March. Students will perform on their chosen 2 instruments or instrument/voice, for 12 minutes (a minimum of 4 minutes on any one instrument). The performance may be either solo and/or in a group (60%: ie 30% per instrument/voice).

What are the homework requirements?

Students will be required to practise regularly. In addition, regular written/listening tasks will be set.

What are the possible progression routes?

Students may progress to **Advanced Higher**, although, if necessary, there is flexibility to allow movement between course levels within an academic year. It may also be possible to pursue a particular interest in Music Technology by taking a stand-alone unit in Sound Engineering. Once again, please consult music staff.

Certification:

Higher Music is allocated 24 SCQF credit points at SCQF Level 6.

