



## Course Information – September 2011

**Course Title**

MUSIC

**Level**

GCSE

**Awarding Body**

AQA

**What is the content of the course?**

There are three areas of study: Performing, Composing and Listening. In the Performing unit students prepare and record a solo and an ensemble piece, working to their strengths whether as a singer or as an instrumentalist. The Composing unit gives students the opportunity to create music to a given brief, for example: Dance Music. The Listening unit requires students to learn about musical instruments and about a wide range of styles from classical to Rock!

**How is the course assessed?**

	%	Details:
End of course exams	20	The Listening examination takes place in the summer of the final year.
Modular exams		
Controlled Assessment	20	One composition is completed in a controlled period of time over a specified number of lessons.
Portfolio	60	All performance work contributes to the portfolio as well as one composition. The recordings take place at regular intervals during the course.

**How is this course delivered?**

The majority of lessons are practical with students working on their performances and compositions. There is the opportunity for them to select their own pieces of music for the performance unit. Composition is also practical and is usually undertaken using the Cakewalk programme on the computers. There are small amounts of listening and key word learning in every lesson to prepare for the Listening examination.

**What are the entry requirements?**

The main requirement is enthusiasm and enjoyment of a wide variety of music. It is essential to play an instrument [keyboard, violin etc.] or to be able to sing. It is expected that students will have reached level 6 at KS3. Students are also supported with a lesson with a visiting teacher wherever possible.

**What skills are useful for success on this course?**

The ability to work independently is essential as well as being able to work effectively in a team. Willingness to have a go and perseverance are also very useful.

**What opportunities will success on this course give me?**

The GCSE Music is popular with employers because of the requirement to work in teams and to think creatively as well as extending ICT skills. The course also prepares students for the sixth form AS and A2 courses as well as for university.