

# MUSIC

GCSE Music is for you, if you enjoy playing your instrument or singing, and you want to extend your musical skills and understanding. You will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities. At Wellingborough, most pupils who study Music in Year 10 are of about Grade 4 standard or higher on voice or an instrument when they start the course, but there is no requirement to have taken the examination.

In GCSE Music pupils will study and listen to a wide range of music. You will learn how to compose for your own instrument and for two or more instruments playing together. You will perform as a soloist and in groups. A typical lesson will be a mixture of at least two of these activities.

The music you will study comes from four different areas:

1. Instrumental Music 1700-1820
  - J.S. Bach: 3rd Movement from Brandenburg Concerto no.5 in D major
  - L. van Beethoven: 1st Movement from Piano Sonata no.8 in C minor 'Pathetique'
2. Vocal Music
  - H. Purcell: Music for a While
  - Queen: Killer Queen (from the album 'Sheer Heart Attack')
3. Music for Stage and Screen
  - S. Schwartz: Defying Gravity (from the album of the cast recording of Wicked)
  - J. Williams: Main title/rebel blockade runner (from the soundtrack to Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope)

#### 4. Fusions

- Afro Celt Sound System: Released (from the album 'Volume 2: Release')
- Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio (from the album 'Esperanza')

Your two performances (of music of your own choosing) will be recorded during the course. Your two compositions will also be done as coursework. At the end of the course, in May 2022, you will take the Listening Examination in which you will hear extracts from the pieces you have studied and answer questions about them.

The best reason for taking GCSE Music is your own enthusiasm for music, of whatever sort. By the time you finish the course you will have taken your first steps as a composer, you will be performing with more understanding and enjoyment and you will have discovered whole new areas of music to explore.

**Mr I Runnells**  
**Director of Music**