



Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: GCSE Music 2019-2020

As you may know, I will be beginning Maternity Leave on Monday March 25th.

This letter will set out what students will need to complete in my absence with their teacher, and I hope that you will find it useful to keep track of your child's progress. Some of the deadlines will differ from those sent out in my previous letter in July, but please do take note of these, more up to date ones.

In addition, for all information on requirements, revision help, important dates and set work support, visit the Pearson Edexcel Exam Board:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.html>

The website contains a wealth of information. The customer services team are also fantastic if you have a question to which you cannot find an answer on the website.

Progress update

Unit 1 Performance: Students have made a practice solo recording and have been encouraged to respond to the feedback during performance lessons. The final recordings and scores of their performances – both solo and ensemble-must be made and submitted in **Year 11 by March 2020**. Recordings made before Year 11 cannot be submitted.

Unit 2. Composition: Students are currently partway through their first composition, this is their 'Free' composition, in any style. The final two compositions, both free and that which is set to a brief, must be submitted in **Year 11 by March 2020. The submission must include recordings and scores/commentaries.**

I have set a preliminary deadline for a first draft of Composition 1 by Monday 25th February so that I can give students feedback before I go. This will enable them to refine their work with their teacher.

Unit 3 Set works.

Set works covered in lessons so far include:

Beethoven Pathetique Sonata, first movement.

Purcell 'Music for a while'

Queen 'Killer Queen'

Schwartz 'Defying Gravity' from Wicked

Students are still to cover the remaining four set works:

Bach: Brandenburg Concerto no.5, Movement 3

Williams: Star Wars Main Title Rebel/Blockade Runner

Afro Celt Sound System 'Release'

Esperanza Spalding: Samba em Preludio

Their written exam which will include questions on all 8 set works will be in **June 2020**.

A reminder of how GCSE Music is structured

Units	What does it include?	How much is it worth?
Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two compositions (one free, which may be completed in Year 10 and 11 and one set to a brief by Edexcel in the first week of their first term of Year 11) 	30% of the GCSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two performances (one solo, one group) These performances must be recorded in Year 11 NOT Year 10. 	30% of the GCSE
Exam (1 hr 45 minute)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 written exam comprising of listening and analysis tests based on 8 set works. This exam will take place in June 2020. 	40% of the GCSE

What work should my son/daughter be doing at the moment?

Performance (30%)

Students should be practising their instrument regularly and working on solo pieces. **If at all possible, please support your child to take instrumental lessons as these have been shown to hugely benefit their marks at GCSE.** Students should keep a practice diary to ensure they stay on track. Marks are given for expression and technique, so students should be mindful of these as they play. Detailed examination criteria have been shared with the students via SMHW.

Composition 30%

Students should enjoy improvising their own music, either on their instrument or on music software, such as Garageband or Logic Pro. Students are encouraged to keep a record of their ideas, either on paper or saved on a memory stick that they may bring to lessons.

Students are welcome to use our practice rooms and computer suite during breaktimes.

Students should work steadily at their composition in composition lessons and should log their progress in their Composition Booklet (In their folders).

Detailed examination criteria have been shared with the students via SMHW.

Listening and Analysis 40%

Students will be studying the following set works:

Beethoven Pathetique Sonata, first movement.

Bach: Brandenburg Concerto no.5, Movement 3

Purcell 'Music for a while'

Queen 'Killer Queen'

Schwartz 'Defying Gravity' from Wicked

Williams: Star Wars Main Title Rebel/Blockade Runner

Afro Celt Sound System 'Release'

Esperanza Spalding: Samba em Preludio

Students are encouraged to make a playlist of these works and get to know them through listening. Going to see these works performed live is an absolute winner if possible! Wider reading and listening can help enormously too. Students should look at their books to see their Wider Listening Timeline and listen to related works.

What resources will help my son/daughter excel in music lessons?

Set Work Guide

Students are encouraged to purchase the following guide to the set works, which we use in lessons (£14.99)

<https://www.whsmith.co.uk/products/new-gcse-music-edexcel-complete-revision--practice-with-audio-cd---for-the-grade-9-1-course/9781782946151>

Theory workbook Grades 1-5

https://www.amazon.co.uk/First-Steps-Music-Theory-Grades/dp/1860960901/ref=sr_1_fmkr0_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1531405325&sr=1-1-fmkr0&keywords=abrsm+theory+grades+1-5+workbook (£4.91)

Stationery

Students should come to ALL lessons equipped with:

Highlighters

Pencils

A rubber and a ruler

Coloured pens (for colour coded analysis work)

Please do contact me if you have any queries about the above. However, all enquiries regarding staffing should be referred to the Headteacher.

Yours sincerely,



Ms A de Sybel
Head of Music