

Uniting with Parents – GCSE Music

Key Information

- Edexcel GCSE Music
- 30% Performance – 1 Solo & 1 Group/Ensemble
- 30% Composition – 2 compositions
- 40% - Listening & Appraising Exam
- GCSE Listening & Appraising Exam - Tuesday 4th June 2019

Performance

- **At least 30 minutes practise EVERY day without fail.**
- **Parents** – listen out for practise at home. They should be playing for 30 minutes. If you don't hear much then they aren't practising enough. Encourage them to play at different times of the day.
- **Students** – Leave your phone outside your room and try and practise in school where there are less distractions.
- **Parents** – Ask your son/daughter to perform their piece to you. This will help them build their confidence. It will also be clear to you, even if not musical, if they are making progress.
- **Students** – Make sure you perform as much as you can - to your parents, friends or phone recorder. Listen back to yourself and see where you make mistakes. Come to school bands and rehearsals and make sure you play with other students.
- **Parents** – Make sure your son/daughter is having lessons, attending school ensembles and where possible, using backing tracks to play along with at home.

Composition

- **You need to spend time on your piece outside of lesson time. It won't get better without those chunks of time.**
- **Parents** – Ask to hear their composition and ask them what it is about. Chat about the piece and ask them what they are doing to create it. You don't need to understand the musical terms, but it will be clear if they know what they are doing. They need headphones and access to music streaming where possible.
- **Students** – Make sure your piece is telling a story and has a clear theme or idea behind it. Also make sure that you ask for help and listen to other pieces to gain inspiration.

Exam Preparation

- **You don't need a textbook, I will give you all the notes you need. They are also all online.**
- **Parents** – Have you listened to the set works? If not then have a listen and ask your son/daughter to talk you through the pieces. It will be clear how well they know them! Take them to see live music where possible.
- **Students** – Listen to as much music as you can, and get used to spotting key features. Talk about these pieces in class and with your friends to increase your knowledge and vocabulary.
- **Parents** – They need to be able to write about music. If you listen to the pieces and then read their essays you could chat to them about how well they are coming across – and a non-specialist will often give a good review as you will be able to decide if you understand more as a result of reading their work.
- **Students** – Make sure you attend all revision sessions and extra sessions. **Parents** – Make sure they come along.
- **Students** – how organised is your music folder? Do you have the coloured pens? Have you annotated your anthology? **Parents** – Please make sure they have the coloured pens, a neat folder and ask to see their anthology and look out for lots of coloured pen markings!