

# Why choose GCSE Music?

*Eduqas GCSE Music @ Eatonbank Academy*

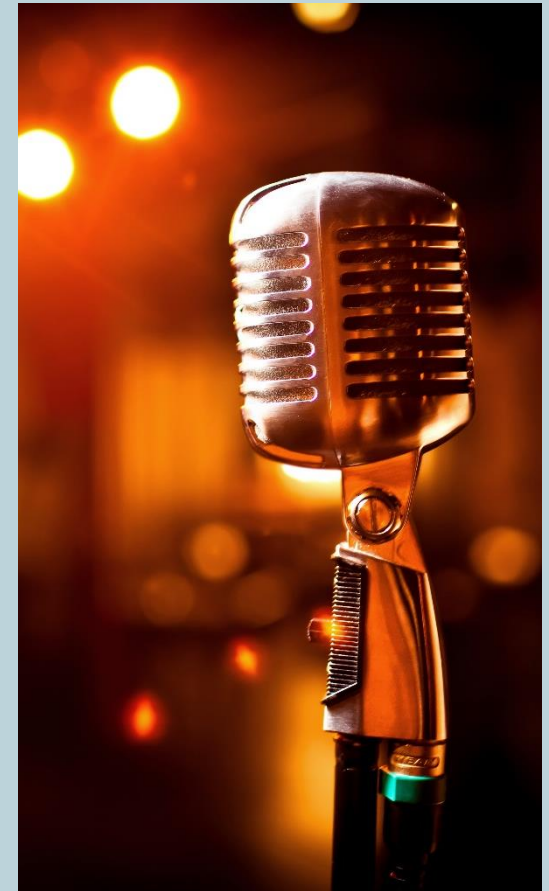
# Why choose GCSE Music?

## So what is involved?

- Three aspects:
- **Practical work – 60%**
  - **Composing** – creating your own music using music technology
  - **Performing** – performing solo and as part of a group/ensemble

## **Theory/Examination – 40%**

- **Appraising** – studying and analysing a variety of musical styles



# Why choose GCSE Music?

- Practical Coursework - Both Performance and Composition are internally assessed, externally moderated

## **Performance:**

- Required to perform a minimum of two pieces.
- At least one must be as part of an ensemble performance lasting at least one minute.
- The other piece(s) may be performed either solo and/or as part of an ensemble.

## **Composition**

- Complete two compositions
- One will be linked to an area of study and the other a free composition.

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## **Exam**

- The written exam is for 1 hour 15 minutes
- The exam will have extracts of music from the following 4 areas of study
- Students are required to answer questions about each piece of music
  
- **Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices**
- **Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble**
- **Area of study 3: Film Music**
- **Area of study 4: Popular Music**

# Why choose GCSE Music?

## *Why is music a **sensible choice** at GCSE?*

- **Musical:** students improve their music skills, improving their musicianship, and ability to perform, compose and analyse.
- **Non-musical:** students improve their interpersonal skills, communication skills, and transferable skills (skills used in other subjects).

# Why choose GCSE Music?

*What do the students say?*

*“**Music is great** – I look forward to it every week – whilst still being **challenging**, it is an **opportunity for us to escape** the heavy writing and reading from other subjects – the **practical elements** allow us the freedom to be **creative** and does not restrict us”*

# Why choose GCSE Music?

Articulate expression  
Awareness of cultural differences

**Career Planning**

**Confidence**

Communication

Creativity

Critical thinking

**Decision making**

Design and visual awareness

Engagement with the unfamiliar

Entrepreneurism

Etiquette and conventions

Evaluation skills

Independent learning

**IT skills**

Lateral thinking

**Leadership**

Listening skills

**Literacy**

Negotiation

**Numeracy**

Organisation and planning

Problem solving

Professional ethics

Research skills

Reviewing progress

Self-awareness

Self-expression

**Self-management**

**Self-motivation**

**Study skills**

Team work

Time management and prioritisation

Some other skills to consider...

Some other skills to consider...

# Why choose GCSE Music?

I heard that  
music is  
good for the  
brain...

...is this  
true?

## Music and the brain

*Playing and listening to music works several areas of the brain*

**Corpus callosum:**  
Connects both sides of the brain

**Motor cortex:** Involved in movement while dancing or playing an instrument

**Prefrontal cortex:**  
Controls behavior, expression and decision-making

**Nucleus accumbens and amygdala:**  
Involved with emotional reactions to music

**Sensory cortex:**

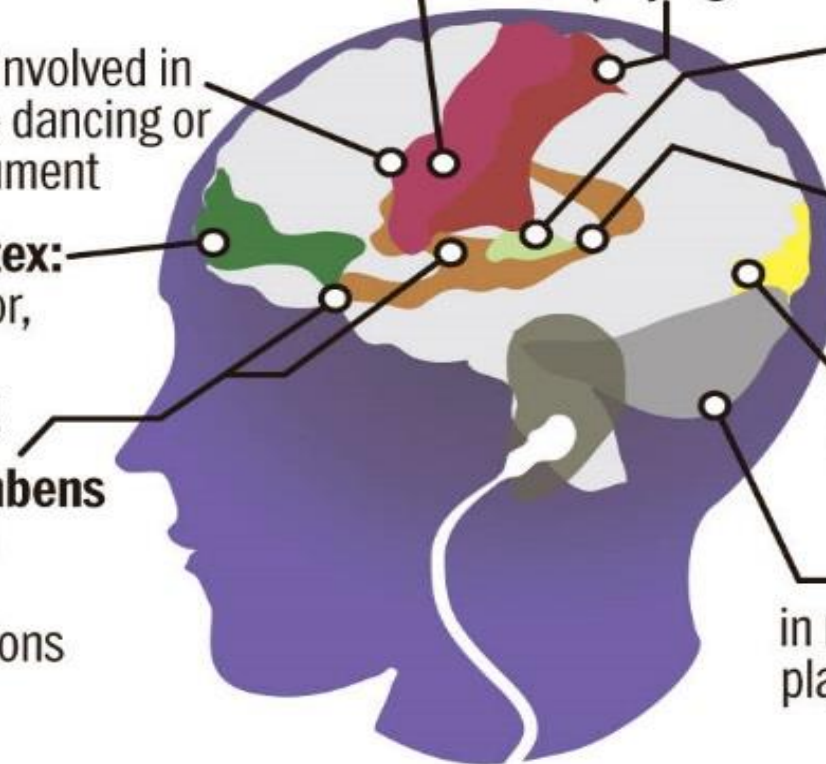
Controls tactile feedback while playing instruments or dancing

**Auditory cortex:** Listens to sounds; perceives and analyzes tones

**Hippocampus:** Involved in music memories, experiences and context

**Visual cortex:** Involved in reading music or looking at your own dance moves

**Cerebellum:** Involved in movement while dancing or playing an instrument, as well as emotional reactions





# Why choose GCSE Music?

## *How does it follow on from Year 8?*

- GCSE music will add to knowledge previously gained, and allow pupils to develop further in the following areas:
  - Performing as a soloist, and as part of a group or ensemble.
  - Developing composition techniques to cover all genres of music.
  - Listening to a wide variety of music, and commenting and sharing thoughts with fellow students.
  - Exposure to historical and cultural context of music.

# Why choose GCSE Music?

*But I don't play an instrument or sing?*

- Even if you do not play an instrument, the GCSE music course is still accessible.
- Over the three years, you will need to learn an instrument or sing to a proficient level.
- You will get a lot of support from teachers and other students when learning your instrument/singing.



# Why choose GCSE Music?

## *A summary please?*

- It enables creative learning.
- It allows communication in a unique language.
- It is varied and interesting, and a journey of discovery.
- **It is well respected by top universities.**
- **It is fulfilling and challenging.**
- **It is academically rigorous.**