



MUSIC GCSE

*OfSTED said: "There is a wide range of opportunities
for pupils to extend their learning." May 2026*

MUSIC GCSE SPECIFICATION AT A GLANCE

EXAM BOARD: OCR

Candidates will pursue a course leading to the award of a GCSE 9-1 qualification at the end of Year 11.

END OF COURSE ASSESSMENT

Integrated portfolio (non-examined assessment)

30% of total GCSE

Performance on the learner's chosen instrument (including voice). Composition to a brief set by the learner.

Practical Component (non-examined assessment)

30% of total GCSE

Ensemble performance. Composition to an OCR set brief.

Listening and Appraising (written exam)

40% of total GCSE

A 1 hour and 30 minutes written paper. Listening, appraising and notation skills are assessed.

SUPPORTING TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Regular performance opportunities - both solo and ensemble
- Trips to see quality, live music
- Opportunities to work with a range of music professionals

SHOULD MY CHILD STUDY MUSIC?

GCSE music is a course which inspires creativity and encourages students to broaden their musical horizons. It combines the traditional and modern, offering exciting opportunities for students to study diverse and traditional fields, as well as develop an interest in all aspects of their musical heritage.

What will my child gain from music?

For students who choose music GCSE at Goldington Academy, a range of opportunities will be provided to develop instrumental skills and performance confidence through a variety of events in a range of venues. They will learn to use current technology to support their musical learning in all areas. Composing skills will be developed through collaborative group work alongside individual coaching and mentoring. Students' understanding and appreciation of diverse musical genres will be developed through access to, and investigation of, a range of live and recorded music. Their love of music will be encouraged and nurtured.

Where will music take my child?

GCSE music develops valuable, transferable skills such as self-confidence, concentration, creativity, evaluation and team work. It offers choices, catering for a wide range of interests, instruments, personalities and directions. Consequently, a number of career paths and further education options in music will be open to students. Opportunities to work with a range of music professionals throughout the course will provide an insight into various aspects of the music industry and will serve to inform students of a number of career options.

Further reading/suggested revision materials:

OCR GCSE Music Study Guide
OCR GCSE Music Revision Guide
BBC Bitesize – GCSE Music
Focus on Sound

For further information, please contact:

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