

## **GCSE Music at The Leys (Edexcel specification)**

Pupils **perform, compose and analyse** a wide variety of pieces and musical styles. The course is wide-ranging and provides something for everybody's musical taste. A GCSE in Music is an excellent grounding for A Level Music and is a great opportunity to develop musical skills, learn some new techniques, and broaden musical tastes.

**GCSE Music is taught in small sets, and is 60% coursework based. This takes place throughout the course, so there is only one written exam in the summer.**

### **Unit 1: Performing (coursework) 30%**

Pupils are expected to perform regularly throughout the course, both as a soloist and in one or more ensembles. **Candidates submit two recorded performances at the end of the course:**

**one solo**

**one ensemble**

Performances may be on any instruments (or voice), in *any style* and should be of approx. *Grade 4/5 standard*. **Performances need to be a combined length of at least four minutes.**

### **Unit 2: Composition (coursework) 30%**

Pupils compose a wide variety of music throughout the course but ultimately **submit two compositions**, one of which is composed to a **brief set by the exam board** which is released on 1 September for assessment in the following exam series. The brief comes from the four areas of study which are listed overleaf. The second composition is a contrasting **free composition** where pupils can compose in any style they wish. **Each composition must be at least 1 minute with a combined time of no less than 3 minutes.**

All final compositions are produced on a computer using Flat.io or Soundtrap. No previous experience of these applications is necessary – just enthusiasm and the confidence to try new things.

### **Unit 3: Listening & Appraising (1 hour and 45-minute exam) 40%**

During the course you will study music in the GCSE Anthology from a variety of areas of study which include:

**Instrumental Music (1700-1820) – Works by Bach and Beethoven**

**Vocal Music – Purcell and Queen**

**Music for Stage and Screen – Music from *Wicked* and *Star Wars***

**Fusions – Afro Celt Sound System; Esperanza Spalding**

There is **one** written listening exam in the summer, in which you will be asked questions on features from music you have been studying throughout the course, and some questions on a piece of unfamiliar music.