GCSE Music Curriculum Map (Edexcel) – Years 10 & 11 2024-2025

Year 10

Half Term	Focus Area	Key Content	Skills Development	Incorporation of Literacy and British Values
Autumn 1	**Introduction and Defying Gravity**	- Overview of course structure and assessment.- Study *Defying Gravity* (*Wicked*) – context, structure, and features.	- Analytical skills: leitmotifs, texture, dynamics, and word-painting.- **Composition:** Compose a short dramatic piece using leitmotifs.	- Literacy: Developing musical vocabulary (e.g., *leitmotif*, *texture*).- British Values: Respecting diverse theatrical traditions and understanding their cultural context.
Autumn 2	**Release**	- Study *Release* (*Afro Celt Sound System*) – fusion styles, rhythm, instrumentation, and technology.	- Analyze world music influences and technology.- **Composition:** Develop a rhythmic piece using fusion techniques and loops.	- Literacy: Comparing cultural influences on music.- British Values: Exploring multicultural influences and their contributions to British society.
Spring 1	**Killer Queen**	- Study *Killer Queen* (Queen) – rock music features, harmony, and recording techniques.	- Analytical focus on production, harmony, and melody.- **Composition:** Create a song intro inspired by *Killer Queen's* structure and style.	- Literacy: Writing analytically about the production process.- British Values: Recognizing Queen's impact on British music and global culture.
Spring 2	**Samba Em Preludio & Free Composition Introduction**	- Study *Samba Em Preludio* – Bossa Nova and jazz fusion, rhythm, harmony, and expressive elements.- Introduction to free composition coursework.	- Explore Latin rhythms and jazz harmony.- **Composition:** Begin brainstorming ideas for free composition, inspired by *Samba Em Preludio*.	- Literacy: Understanding key musical terms (e.g., *syncopation*, *chromaticism*).- British Values: Respecting cultural diversity through music study.

Summer 1	**Beethoven Pathetique & Free Composition Development**	- Study *Piano Sonata No. 8* (*Pathétique*) – sonata form, harmony, development of the piano and Classical-Romantic crossover.- Develop free composition ideas.	- Focus on sonata form, dynamics, and modulation.- **Composition:** Continue drafting and refining free compositions.	- Literacy: Writing about structure and form.- British Values: Exploring Beethoven's universal appeal and the shared heritage of classical music.
Summer 2	**Star Wars & Free Composition Completion**	- Study *Star Wars: Episode IV – Main Title/Rebel Blockade Runner* – film music techniques, leitmotifs, and orchestration.- Finalise free composition coursework.	- Listening and appraising film music.- **Composition:** Finalise, record, and notate free composition.	- Literacy: Comparing orchestral techniques.- British Values: Recognizing the role of the arts in global and British identity.

Students performances are internally assessed once per half term, with a focus on solo performance in the first two terms of Year 10. In the last term of Year 10 we internally assess ensemble performances.

Year 11

Half Term	Focus Area	Key Content	Skills Development	Incorporation of Literacy and British Values
Autumn 1	**Music for a While & Brief Composition Introduction**	- Study *Music for a While* (*Purcell*) – Baroque features, word painting, and ground bass.- Introduction to brief composition options	- Analyze Baroque music and word-setting.- **Composition:** Begin developing ideas for chosen brief with teacher feedback.	- Literacy: Analyzing and writing about Baroque styles.- British Values: Recognizing Britain's early music heritage and its cultural significance.

Autumn 2	**Bach Brandenburg Concerto & Brief Composition Development**	- Study *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, 3rd Movement* – Baroque concerto grosso, texture, and fugal elements.- Focus on developing brief composition ideas.	- Explore polyphony and contrapuntal writing.- **One-to-One Sessions:** Individualized guidance on student briefs.	- Literacy: Discussing complex textures and forms.- British Values: Exploring shared European musical traditions and their impact on British music.
Spring 1	**Brief Composition Completion & Revision**	- Finalise brief composition coursework with teacher support.- Begin revising all set works with a focus on weaker areas.	- **One-to-One Sessions:** Tailored support to finalise compositions.- Targeted practice for essay questions and dictation.	- Literacy: Developing structured essay responses.- British Values: Promoting resilience through reflective practice and revision.
Spring 2	**Final Revision & Exam Preparation**	- Focus on all set works, terminology, and exam strategies.- Practice past papers and listening tests.	- Final opportunity to develop timing, essay-writing, and listening skills.- Practise exams and final performance recordings.	- Literacy: Applying terminology effectively in timed essays.- British Values: Emphasizing hard work, dedication, and reflective thinking.

In the Autumn term we begin to prepare for final solo and ensemble performances. This will involve liaising with instrumental and vocal teachers and setting up dates to record performances that suit everyone, especially for the ensemble performances. Because of the organisation involved, these final performance often happen outside of normal timetabled lessons, but always with the Music Teacher present.