



The **Thomas Mills High School & Sixth Form** GCSE Music Curriculum is based on the Edexcel course. The Edexcel GCSE Music curriculum aims to develop well-rounded musicianship by integrating **technical, constructive and expressive knowledge**.

- **Technical knowledge** focuses on understanding how music is created, including skills in performance, composition and the use of musical notation and technology. Students learn how to play or sing with accuracy, fluency and control.
- **Constructive knowledge** involves understanding how musical elements—such as melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, tonality, structure, sonority, tempo, dynamics and articulation—are combined to create coherent and purposeful compositions. This knowledge enables students to analyse and construct music across diverse genres and contexts as well as analysing the 8 different set works.
- **Expressive knowledge** emphasises communication and interpretation, enabling students to make informed artistic decisions that convey mood, character and intention in both performance and composition.

Together, these areas ensure that students become confident, creative and analytical musicians, capable of engaging critically with a wide range of musical styles. Performances will be recorded this year and submitted to the exam board and a free and brief composition will also be submitted. Pupils will also revise for the final 40% of the GCSE, which is the appraising paper.

Year 11			
Term	Topic	Knowledge and Skills	Useful Links
1	Performing:	Pupils confirm the solo and ensemble pieces they will perform for their GCSE assessments. They continue regular rehearsals and work with instrumental or vocal teachers to refine interpretation and technical accuracy. All necessary documentation is completed, and performance difficulty levels are discussed and agreed upon.	Performing music - preparing for a performance - Musical performance - Edexcel - GCSE Music Revision - Edexcel - BBC Bitesize
	Composing:	Pupils receive their official composition briefs from the exam board and begin developing ideas for their brief composition. They focus on structure, style and the use	



	Appraising:	of musical elements, supported by teacher examples and modelling. There is a strong focus on revising the vocal and stage & screen set works. Pupils practise unseen listening questions and longer comparative essays to build confidence and exam technique.	
Assessments		Pupils complete a preparatory performance assessment to monitor progress. They also submit initial ideas for their brief composition. In appraising, there is a formal assessment focused on unseen listening. Throughout the term, pupils receive detailed verbal and written feedback, supported by regular classroom discussion, listening practice, teacher modelling and peer evaluation to build their skills across all areas.	
2	Performing: Composing: Appraising:	This is the key term for performance assessment. Pupils record both their solo and ensemble pieces for submission. Rehearsals focus on polish and presentation, with attention to accuracy, expression and communication. Both the free composition and the brief composition are finalised and submitted this term. Pupils refine their work with teacher support, ensuring compositions meet the exam criteria for structure, creativity and use of musical elements. Pupils revise the instrumental and fusion set works, develop wider listening knowledge, and practise unseen listening questions. Focus is placed on detailed musical analysis and extended writing.	GCSE Music - Edexcel - BBC Bitesize



Assessments:		Pupils are assessed through recordings of both their solo and ensemble performances. They submit their completed free and brief compositions for final assessment. In appraising, pupils sit a preparatory examination to track readiness for the final exam.	
3	Performing: Composing: Appraising:	Performance assessments have been completed in the Spring Term. This term, the recordings are submitted to the exam board. All composition work is completed and officially submitted during this term. The focus is now entirely on final revision and preparation for the GCSE listening and appraising exam. Pupils consolidate their understanding of all four areas of study and practise timed questions and exam techniques.	Edexcel (Pearson) GCSE Music Past Papers [PDFs]
Assessments		Pupils sit the final listening and appraising examination. Leading up to this, they receive tailored support through mock questions, structured revision sessions and teacher feedback. Pupils are encouraged to refine their essay writing and listening accuracy with the aid of exemplar responses, mark schemes and regular teacher input.	