



# The Crossley Heath School

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## GCSE Music Year 11 – Key Dates and Course Information

11 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to give you an update and some key information and dates regarding the Year 11 GCSE Music course.

### **Composition (30% of overall grade)**

Students are currently working on their Free Compositions in lessons with Ms Peers. The deadline for submission of this piece is Christmas but as students will be revising for and completing their mock exams at the beginning of December, we have advised them that they need to think of the end of November as being their deadline. The expectation is that students will spend between 30 minutes and an hour on this composition in their own time as homework each week. After submission, we will mark the work internally and then give students generic feedback as we cannot offer solutions in accordance with exam board regulations. They will then have until February half term, outside of lesson time, to make changes to their composition and resubmit.

In addition to their Free Composition, students have started working on their Brief Composition in their lessons with me. The deadline for submission for this piece will be February half term. In a similar way to the Free Composition, we will then mark the work internally and give students generic feedback. They will then have until the Easter holidays, outside of lesson time, to make changes to their composition and resubmit.

In order to give students access to school equipment and staff support, I thought it would be useful to detail when and where this is available. M2 will be available on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday lunch times each week for students to work on composition. The Wednesday session is coupled with our Music Theory and GCSE Support enrichment, which I lead. Students can access this group for extra theoretical support and support for their exam too. The other days will not be staffed but they will be able to access the software. Ms Peers also runs an 'Open Rehearsal' enrichment in M1 on Tuesday lunchtimes and would be happy to answer any questions on composition in this time too.

### **Performance (30% of overall grade)**

Students are required to perform a solo and ensemble piece. They should be liaising with instrumental teachers and myself to ensure that they are rehearsing suitable pieces which, where possible, should be of above grade 4 standard. The solo performance will happen w/c 8<sup>th</sup> January with further details to follow and the ensemble performance w/c 4<sup>th</sup> March. The aim is for students to have a recording that reflects their abilities during the weeks listed above but if students do not perform at their best during these times, they will be offered opportunities to redo performances after school with a member of the music department. Their combined performance time must be at least 4 minutes with both their solo and ensemble lasting at least 1 minute each. It is the student's responsibility to time their performance. If students need any support with the selection of performance materials or are experiencing any problems, they need to contact me as soon as possible, having already spoken to their instrumental teachers.

### **Appraising Examination (40% of overall grade)**

Students should be planning out now their revision for the examination. The mock exams are coming up, but revision needs to be consistent and not be last minute before the examination in June. If any student needs support with revision, they should speak to me. After half term, I will be offering after school revision sessions on a Thursday for any student that requires some extra support. We will also be providing plenty of revision materials on Teams for students to access and the Music Theory and GCSE Support sessions mentioned above are running every Wednesday lunchtime in M2.

The following is a link to a useful revision guide which is available.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Edexcel-GCSE-Music-Revision-Guide/dp/1785581686>

As always, I am happy to answer any questions via email ([r.nimmo@crossleyheath.org.uk](mailto:r.nimmo@crossleyheath.org.uk))

Thank you for your support.



Mr R Nimmo  
Head of Music