

## MUSIC

GCSE Music (OCR) follows on from the curriculum in Years 7 – 9 and is an excellent choice for any girl actively involved in the musical life of the school. GCSE Music is also a good preparation for further musical studies and a solid foundation for the A-Level Music option. Girls already taking instrumental lessons – with the prospect of reaching ABRSM Grade 4 or equivalent by March of Year 11 – would be well placed to take Music GCSE as an option as a third of the coursework is based on performance.

The course will benefit and be enjoyed by anyone wishing to study a subject that involves:

- Performing
- Composing or arranging
- Listening to music all of styles – Jazz, rock, disco, house, classical, world, etc.
- Making music with others in a band, an orchestra, jazz ensemble, string quartet, etc.

The coursework requires candidates to perform one solo piece on their chosen instrument or voice and to write a short composition for that instrument, You will also have to perform as part of an ensemble and to write a short composition with the brief specified by the examining board. Collectively this is worth 60% of the marks. The remaining 40% is a written paper which asks questions about areas of music covered during the course – this takes the form of a listening exam – extracts are played from a CD with questions being asked about the music heard.

There are also plenty of opportunities to explore IT music software such as *Sibelius* and *Cubase* during the GCSE Music course.