

Music is available at National 4, 5, Higher and Advanced Higher levels. Students in S4 are most likely to sit either National 4 or 5 Music, progressing to N5, Higher or Advanced Higher in S5/6. The music courses provide a broad practical experience of performing and creating music and develop related knowledge and understanding of music. Pupils will develop their skills and creative capabilities as musicians and gain the skills they need to perform and create music and to confidently discriminate between music concepts and styles. A wide range of learning and teaching strategies will be used such as whole class, paired and/or group work. Work in class will be supported by classroom arrangements, ICT and specific web sites. Pupils will be involved in setting their own targets and evaluating their own as well as others progress. Pupils will be expected to take responsibility for their learning. Homework continues to be an important part of the Music course, and pupils are expected to revise concepts and practice their instruments in more detail at home and on a more regular basis, to enhance their knowledge, skills and understanding.

Useful Websites: - [learn listening online](#) [National qualifications listening](#)

NATIONAL 4 MUSIC	
REQUIREMENTS	Pupils are expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding of relevant CfE outcomes or equivalent qualifications and/or experience of National 3 Music.
COURSE CONTENT	<p>There are 3 Units – <i>Composing Skills, Understanding Music and Performing Skills</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop performing skills in solo and/or group on two selected instruments or one instrument and voice. • Create original music. • Develop understanding of social/cultural factors influencing music. • Develop knowledge and understanding of music theory and literacy. • Reflect on own work and that of others
ASSESSMENT	Performing and creating will be assessed continuously throughout the year. Knowledge of listening skills will be assessed by class tests and project work. Pupils will undertake peer and self evaluation of progress in performing and creating and be involved in negotiating next steps. The 3 mandatory units are internally assessed and subject to SQA verification. National 4 also has an added value unit which is a Performance on two instruments lasting 8 minutes in total at Grade 2 level.
PROGRESSION / NEXT STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studying National 5 Qualifications

NATIONAL 5 MUSIC	
REQUIREMENTS	While entry is at the discretion of the centre, students would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding of relevant CfE experiences and outcomes or equivalent qualifications and/or experience of National 4 Music.
COURSE CONTENT	<p>There are 3 Mandatory Units – <i>Composing Skills, Understanding Music and Performing Skills</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop performing skills in solo and/or group on two selected instruments or one instrument and voice. • Perform challenging music with accuracy while maintaining the musical flow. • Create original music. • Develop understanding of social/cultural factors influencing music. • Broaden knowledge and understanding of music theory and literacy. • Self reflect on own work and that of others.
ASSESSMENT	The 3 mandatory units are internally assessed on a pass/fail basis and are subject to SQA verification. The external award involves a Performance of 8 minutes between two instruments at Grade 3 level (with a minimum of 2 minutes on each instrument). This is marked out of 60 and assessed by an external examiner. Students will also sit a question paper which demonstrates knowledge and understanding of music, music concepts and musical literacy. This paper is out of 40 . The course assessment is graded A-D.
PROGRESSION / NEXT STEPS	Studying Higher Music. Pupils may wish to discuss relevant work experience/placements with Faculty staff and their Guidance Teacher.

HIGHER MUSIC	
REQUIREMENTS	<p>While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have attained one of the following or equivalent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Qualifications 5 (Grade A/Upper B) • Performance skills at Grade 4 or above on at least one instrument.
COURSE CONTENT	<p>There are 3 Mandatory Units – <i>Composing Skills, Understanding Music and Performing Skills</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop performing skills in solo and/or group on two selected instruments or one instrument and voice. • Perform challenging music with accuracy while maintaining the musical flow. • Create original music. • Develop understanding of social/cultural factors influencing music. • Broaden knowledge and understanding of music theory and literacy. • Self reflect on own work and that of others.
ASSESSMENT	<p>The 3 mandatory units are internally assessed on a pass/fail basis and are subject to SQA verification. The external award involves a Performance of 12 minutes between two instruments at Grade 4 level (with a minimum of 4 minutes on each instrument). This is marked out of 60 and assessed by an external examiner. Students will also sit a question paper which demonstrates knowledge and understanding of music, music concepts and musical literacy. This paper is out of 40. The course assessment is graded A-D.</p>
PROGRESSION / NEXT STEPS	<p>This course may provide progression to other qualifications, further study, employment and/or training. A possible career could be anything related to the music industry directly – performing; teaching; composing; recording music; music publishing; retailing of music books or instruments and music therapy. Musical skills can be very helpful in many careers, such as primary/nursery teaching; occupational therapy and some aspects of social/community work. A knowledge of music can also enhance careers related to dance or drama. Pupils may wish to discuss relevant work experience/placements with Faculty staff and their Guidance Teacher.</p>

ADVANCED HIGHER MUSIC	
REQUIREMENTS	<p>While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have attained one of the following or equivalent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Music (Grade A/Upper B) • Performance skills at Grade 5 or above on at least one instrument.
COURSE CONTENT	<p>The course consists of three 40 hour units in Performing, Composing and Listening. Plus a further 40 hours of flexible time. It is similar to the Higher course but the work produced in each unit is expected to be of a more advanced level. In addition pupils have to write an analytical commentary based on two pieces of music which should be 1500-2000 words.</p>
ASSESSMENT	<p>The 3 mandatory units are internally assessed throughout the course on a pass/fail basis and are subject to SQA verification. The external award involves a Performance of 15 minutes on your 1st instrument and a Performance of 10 minutes on your second instrument at Grade 5 level. This is marked out of 60 and assessed by an external examiner. Students will also sit a question paper which demonstrates knowledge and understanding of music, music concepts and musical literacy. This paper is out of 40. The course assessment is graded A-D.</p>
PROGRESSION / NEXT STEPS	<p>The course or its units may provide progression to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree, HND or HNC courses in Music • Other degree and higher education courses which use Music as a general entry qualification • Employment <p>A possible career could be anything related to the music industry directly – performing; teaching; composing; recording music; music publishing; retailing of music books or instruments, and music therapy. Musical skills can be very helpful in many careers, such as primary/nursery teaching; occupational therapy and some aspects of social/community work. A knowledge of music can also enhance careers related to dance or drama. Pupils may wish to discuss relevant work experience/placements with Faculty staff and their Guidance Teacher.</p>