DEPARTMENT: **MUSIC**

TITLE OF COURSE: **MUSIC**

LEVEL: **HIGHER**

RECOMMENDED ENTRY LEVELS: **An A or B pass at National 5**
A consultation with Music Teacher / Faculty Head
Candidates must demonstrate ability on two instruments and ideally receive instrumental instruction on at least one of these, either in or out of school. Access to at least one of their chosen instruments at home is also required.

COURSE CONTENT:
Three internally assessed and compulsory pass Units, comprising of:-

Performing Skills Performance at **Grade IV** standard (minimum) on **two** instruments. Candidates must show ability to perform in a range of styles; develop musical and technical skills and self-reflect on the quality and accuracy of their performing. Candidates must record and reflect on at least two sections of pieces on each instrument throughout the year, plus maintain a regular practice diary.

Composing Skills Creating original music by understanding how a range of musical methods and concepts are used by composers; experimenting in creative ways to produce a folio of pieces using the musical concepts studied; developing musical ideas and self-reflecting on their creative choices and decisions.

Understanding Music Recognising and identifying level-specific music concepts; identifying and analysing the social and cultural influences which have influenced the distinctive sounds and structure of specific music styles and identifying and understanding the meaning of music signs, symbols and terms.

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT: **Added Value Unit**

Performance **60 Marks**
The performance should be at **Grade IV** standard (minimum) on both instruments and candidates must perform for a minimum duration of **twelve minutes** in total (times can be flexible, provided at least four minutes on one instrument). The final Added Value Performance will take place in **February/March** each year to an SQA Visiting Assessor. This is graded A-D

Question Paper **40 Marks**
This will test learners' knowledge and understanding of musical concepts and music literacy. Learners will demonstrate conceptual knowledge and understanding of music by responding to questions that relate to musical excerpts, music concepts and styles. This is also graded A-D and will take place in **May/June** in a formal SQA examination.

HOMEWORK

Performing

Practice will be on-going in class **and at home** for each instrument chosen in Performing. If pupils do not receive instrumental tuition on a particular instrument, then time should be spent during pupil's own time to rehearse and develop skills. Time within the Music Department is always available over lunchtime or after school, and it is expected that pupils will use the resources within the department if they do not have these at home, as using class time only is not enough. Pieces have to be verified by the class teacher as appropriate standard and should be identified as early in to the year as possible, particularly if in conjunction with external instrumental tutors.

Composing

Deadlines may be set throughout the year for each piece to be completed and evaluated. Candidates must ensure they keep to these deadlines, or make provision to use the resources within the department in their own time to keep up with these.

Understanding

Understanding Music concepts **must** be revised and consolidated each week at home to enhance understanding and deepen learning, using online resources and handouts given, plus notes taken. Regular progress checks will be carried out in class to ensure knowledge and understanding is fully learnt. Musical literacy exercises will also be given as homework.