

September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you of some developments with your son's/daughter's GCSE Music education at Heanor Gate Science College.

GCSE Music has a 60% weighting towards the four controlled assessments (formerly named coursework). It is therefore vital that students submit work that is of at least the quality of their target grade in order to meet their overall target grade.

In order to ensure that your son/daughter achieves their target grade in GCSE Music it is essential that they attend an additional 1 hour session every Friday after school (2.55pm-3.55pm).

The Year 11 GCSE group already have a music lesson during P5 on Friday, so it will simply be the case of staying in class for an extra hour. During this hour there will be additional music specialist staff assisting me to ensure that your son/daughter receives the highest level of support with the performance and composition controlled assessments.

Each half term will have focus on a specific controlled assessment (each making up 15% of the final grade). Once your son/daughter has submitted their work, to the standard of their target grade, attendance at these additional sessions will then become optional.

The controlled assessment foci will be as follows:

Up until October half term: Solo performance

October half term to Christmas: Composition 1

January to February half term: Ensemble performance and composition 2

February half term to Easter: Further improvement opportunity on all CAs

May I also request that you strongly encourage your son/daughter to commit to a regular rehearsal timetable at home (if not already doing so). I recommend 20-30 minutes a day, on average. This will have the greatest impact on their overall achievement.

Many thanks in advance for your help and support. I am personally aiming for 100% of the class meeting their target grade and believe it to be possible with a lot of hard work and positive effort.

Please contact me if you have any queries or require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Wetherburn

Teacher of Performing Arts

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