Curricular Area: Expressive Arts

Music

SUBJECT: MUSIC - NATIONAL 3, 4 AND 5

The purpose of the Music Course is to provide learners with a broad practical experience of performing, composing and understanding music.

The course aims to enable learners to:

- Perform music
- Create original music using compositional methods
- Broaden their knowledge and understanding of music and music literacy by listening to music and identifying different concepts, signs and symbols.

Developing skills in creating, understanding and performing music allows for course activities in which learners can work independently and in collaboration with others. In addition, activities can help learners to plan and organise, to make decisions and to take responsibility for own learning. Further, the practical and experiential nature of the course gives learners opportunities to show imagination and creativity by refining and developing their fundamental musical ideas.

What will I be learning about in this course?

National 3 and 4
At National 3 and 4 level, the course is internally assessed. Learners will:

- perform a variety of music on two chosen instruments and reflect on their performances
- develop skills in creating original music by applying a range of compositional techniques
- develop skills in musical analysis and to discriminate between a range of styles and genres of music
- develop their musical literacy through an understanding of a range of music concepts and ideas

At National 4 level, learners will also complete an Added Value Performance where learners perform a programme of level specific music on their two instruments or one instrument and voice to an audience in class and reflect on their performance. This is internally assessed.

National 5 Music

The National 5 Music course is split into three areas: performing, composing and understanding music.

Performing 50%

- At National 5 level, learners will prepare a programme of music on their two chosen instruments or one instrument and voice of 8 minutes duration and of Grade 3 standard and perform to a visiting examiner. Each instrument is worth 25% of their overall grade.

Composition Assignment and Review 15%

- Learners will create an original piece of music in a style of their choice (10%)
- Learners will write a review explaining their creative decisions and process (5%)
- The composition assignment and review are externally assessed.

Understanding Music 35%

- The National 5 course covers a broad range of musical genres including popular, Scottish and world music, as well as the development of classical music through history
- Learners will develop skills in identifying different styles of music and picking out specific features or 'concepts' in the music. They will also develop music literacy skills learning about music signs and symbols.
- Learners will sit a written Understanding Music exam worth 35% of their final grade

What skills will I develop?

We cover all the skills on the Pitlochry High School Skills Framework. For example:

- Solo and Group Performing Skills – using focus, initiate and showing resilience when preparing for a performance. Communicating with others, adapting, evaluating and reflecting on performances.

- Composition skills – using creativity, problem solving, initiative and adaptability. Evaluating and reflecting on your work.

- Understanding Music – using focus, critical thinking, communication and problem solving to critically listen and analyse music.

How will I be assessed?

- At National 3 and 4 level, learners will be internally assessed in performing, composing and understanding music
- At National 5 level, learners will be externally assessed in all areas of the course.

What are the homework requirements?

The ongoing homework requirement for all music courses is to continue to regularly practise your instruments in order to progress as much as possible. If instruments are not available at home, you are encouraged to make use of the music room practise areas at breaks, lunchtimes and after school to practise.

Additional homework tasks might also include:

• Music literacy exercises/ listening and analysis.
• Composition

Progression

From National level, pupils can go on to study music at Higher and Advanced Higher in S5 and S6.

My World of Work

Musician
Music Teacher
Instrumental Instructor
Music Therapist
Arts Administrator
Event Management
Sound Engineer
Music Producer
Community Arts Music

Useful sources of information:

https://myworldofwork.co.uk/

Pitlochry HS Website (for more detailed course descriptors)