

Before you start at The Sixth Form in September you are required to complete the following tasks to increase your curiosity about the subject and prepare you for your first lessons in Music.

### MUSIC THEORY

Before you begin the BTEC Level 3 Music course, it will help greatly if you already have a basic understanding of music theory and notation, as one of the units involves a presentation on the signs and symbols used in traditional and alternative forms of music.

Go through the lessons and complete the tests on the following topics on [musictheory.net](https://www.musictheory.net)-

- a) The staff, clefs and ledger lines
- b) Note duration
- c) Measures and time signature
- d) Rest duration
- e) Simple and compound meter
- f) Odd meter
- g) The major scale
- h) The minor scale
- i) Key signatures
- j) Key signature calculation



### FILM MUSIC

**Task 2** – Listen to the music for the films listed below and answer the following questions to explain why each excerpt is suitable for the plot of the film (these can be easily found online).

[Indiana Jones Main Theme](#)

[Harry Potter - Hedwig's Theme](#)



#### Indiana Jones

1. What emotions or feelings does the "Indiana Jones Main Theme" evoke when you listen to it? How do these emotions relate to Indiana Jones's character and adventures?
2. Describe the main musical elements of the theme (e.g., tempo, instrumentation, dynamics). How do these elements enhance the sense of adventure and excitement in the film?
3. In what ways does the theme music contribute to the overall atmosphere and tone of the Indiana Jones films?
4. Compare the theme to another well-known adventure film score. What similarities and differences can you identify, and how do they affect your perception of the respective films?

## **Harry Potter**

1. What imagery or scenes come to mind when you listen to "Hedwig's Theme"? How do these images relate to the plot and themes of the Harry Potter series?
2. Analyze the main musical components of "Hedwig's Theme" (e.g., melody, harmony, rhythm). How do these components create a sense of magic and wonder?
3. Discuss the role of "Hedwig's Theme" in introducing the audience to the world of Harry Potter. How does the music set the stage for the magical journey that follows?
4. Compare "Hedwig's Theme" to the main theme of another fantasy film. How do the musical characteristics of each theme contribute to the unique atmosphere of their respective films?

These questions aim to guide students in analysing the suitability of the musical excerpts for the films' plots and understanding the relationship between music and storytelling in cinema.

## **COMPOSING**

**Task 3** – Watch this video on how to compose a melody from a chord scheme. Part of the course involves composing using given chord sequences, so this will prove useful for those tasks.

<https://youtu.be/m7xLWByiKMM>

**Good luck and we look forward to hearing about your discoveries  
when you start your course**