

ASDAN COURSE 'Sound, Rhythm and Music'

This is a course suitable for lower ability students - any who have been assessed as working at P levels. It is a one-year course and covers a range of musical skills. There are 7 modules to complete and all are assessed by observation and record-keeping by the teacher. A lot of photographic evidence is taken over the year.

The sorts of things students do in this course are: listening to sounds inside and out and identifying them by listening; learning how music is played on different devices and finding the best ways to access their own music; playing music on percussion instruments. In addition, a variety of different styles of music is listened to and students express their likes and dislikes.

WJEC Pathways – Entry level Music 'Music Appraising'

This entry level course is aimed at students for whom GCSE music would be too challenging but the ASDAN course would be too simple. It focuses on the listening element of music. Music is played everywhere and this course encourages a deeper level of listening which hopefully will enhance their listening in the future. The course is offered at Entry Level 2 and Entry Level 3. The higher level requires a greater degree of expression and written answers, whereas EL2 is multiple choice. There are 12 assessments that need to be completed.

Students learn about musical terms and how to identify them by listening. For example, they might listen to a song by Adele and be asked whether it is in a major or minor key and what time signature it would have. There might also be a question on which instruments are playing in the introduction and whether there are backing singers. Additional questions at EL3 might be to do with describing how the music is used to convey the emotion of the song.