

MUSIC



What I will learn in Music:

- How to read music and compose music of your own - both melodies, chords, bass and harmony lines.
- The language of music in terms of describing what you are hearing and the techniques a composer has used.
- How to play a variety of new instruments, including but not limited to: guitar, ukulele, piano, flute, tin whistle, djembe drumming and singing.
- How to analyse a piece of music or a song on the radio, identifying the instruments playing and what exactly they're doing.
- Music Technology skills including inputting songs into a computer to be played by a variety of instruments; creating your own pieces using loops, beats, samples, etc.; and experimenting with sound effects through various Music software programmes.
- A variety of styles of music including classical, pop, folk, rock, reggae, musical theatre, Irish traditional and much much more...

Subject aims:

Through Music, we aim to nurture our students' creative expression by facilitating a safe space for them to expand their imaginations and explore their own abilities. We aim to develop our students' resilience and patience as they learn a new instrument or become familiar with musical language. We aim to cultivate an appreciation and enthusiasm for the complexities of music and for lots of different musical styles. Above all else, we aim to instil a joy, passion and love for music education in our students as they deepen their understanding of one of the most beautiful things in life.

Why choose this subject?

Most importantly, if you have a passion for Music, enjoy listening to or playing music and would like to learn more about this subject in a practical, enjoyable way - Music is definitely the subject for you! You should also choose music if you prefer subjects that don't involve essay-writing, if you are open to exploring lots of different musical styles and instruments, and if you are prepared to be neat and organised (I hear that Music teachers *love* to use highlighters and colour-coding...)



Areas studied:

- Practical performance and rhythmic skills
- Music literacy - reading music and writing music onto manuscript paper
- Melody writing
- Accompaniment and harmony - chords, bass lines, harmony lines
- For the Leaving Cert, studied works include The Beatles, Berlioz, Mozart and Deane (being examined in 2020 and 2021) or Queen, Tchaikovsky, Bach and Barry - the course alternates every 3 years.
- Irish traditional music
- General aural (listening) skills and 'music appreciation' of a variety of different styles
- The language of music - techniques and expressive qualities

Journey after school/Career prospects:

- Education - becoming a Music teacher either in secondary or primary schools, a Music lecturer in a University or teaching private instrumental lessons in a School of Music
- Business/Technology - music producer, sound engineer, music therapist, radio presenter, lyricist, music in advertising, music scoring and arranging in the film industry
- Performance - solo artist, member of a band, member of an orchestra, songwriter/composer, conductor

Final exam:

In Music you will be examined on the three main components of the subject: composition, listening and performance. In the composition section, you will be examined on music theory and literacy - writing melodies and choosing chords, bass lines and harmony lines to accompany a melody. In the listening section, your musical ear will be put to the test as you identify instruments, techniques, styles, expressive qualities, studio effects, differences between various pieces and so much more. In the performance section, you will prepare for your Music practical in which you are welcome to sing or play an instrument as a solo artist or as part of a group. Your rhythmic skills will be challenged with a short, 'unprepared' test during this exam also.

Junior Cycle:

70% - written examination in June: a mixture of listening and responding and music literacy/compositional skills

30% - Music Practical: three pieces to be performed on any instrument/singing as a solo or as part of a group

CBA's:

1. Student composition portfolio: Students compile a collection of musical ideas and pieces that they have created themselves

2. Programme Note to accompany the Music Practical:

Students prepare background information and analysis of each of the three pieces they will perform at their practical exam - sort of like a brochure about the pieces they have chosen.

Leaving Certificate:

25% - Listening Exam paper in June: Students are examined on their prescribed works, Irish traditional music and general aural skills.

25% - Composing Exam paper in June: Students compose a melody and engage in composition to do with backing chords, bass lines and descant (harmony) lines

25% - Music Practical Exam, usually before Easter:

Students prepare 4 pieces either singing or on an instrument and as a solo or group performance

25% - Music Technology Exam, usually before Easter:

Students input a prepared piece into Music software and make edits to this piece which have a musical impact on the music



"I chose Music as my Junior Cert subject because I wanted to learn what is behind the lyrics and instruments of songs; to learn the foundations of music; because it gives me strength, happiness and energy and because without music, life would B♭ (flat!)"

- Ariana D. Charec, 3rd Year

"Music is probably the subject I enjoy most in school. From studying well known-bands like The Beatles and Queen, to analysing work by Berlioz and Tchaikovsky, learning how to write melodies and learning to perform, I think music is a choice that anyone can pick and enjoy no matter what style they like. Since choosing Music in first year I've been able to learn how to play ukulele, take up and practice piano and be taught how to sing and perform thanks to amazing Music teachers we have in the school. I would highly recommend music as an option for the Leaving Cert."

- Sinéad English, 5th Year

Life skills and other benefits:

The study of music improves academic skills, develops physical skills, cultivates social skills, nurtures emotional intelligence, refines discipline and patience, boosts self-esteem, introduces students to other cultures and of course provides an outlet for creativity and self-expression. In short: it's simply magical.

"Ah music - a magic beyond all we do here." - Albus Dumbledore (J.K. Rowling)

Meet the Teachers

Ms. Cara Bannigan, B. Mus. Ed.

Ms. Bannigan started teaching in St. Tiernan's in 2016 following the completion of a Bachelor's degree in Music Education, awarded by Trinity College Dublin and the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Ms. Bannigan is a classically-trained singer who has completed singing exams in the Musical Theatre style also. She also plays piano, guitar and ukulele (so far!) but is always eager to learn new instruments and explore new styles. A passionate Musical Theatre nerd, she has years of both acting and dance training under her belt and has performed on stage in many, many musicals over the years. In the past few years she has directed the school musicals and talent show, co-conducted the St. Tiernan's school choir and given dance workshops to students.



Ms. Paula Tynan, B.A Music/Geog, Hdip Ed

Ms Tynan has been a teacher in St Tiernans since 2007 and is a graduate of St Pats College, Drumcondra and Trinity College Dublin where she completed her post grad in Education. She also holds a teaching diploma in Piano from London college of Music. She has a keen interest in choral conducting and has directed adult Barbershop groups and two Corus choirs at local level. Together with her colleague Ms Bannigan, she has co-directed school musicals and choirs from 2007 to 2019. She currently is the musical director of BARA (Ballinteer Active Retirement Association) with 40 members ranging in the 55 to 85 age group. She has been a member of PDST, delivering inservices to post primary teachers and was also part of the IT team. She was a co-founder of the company Digiteachers and as part of Erasmus, delivered Courses to teachers from across Europe over a three year period at Easter and in July/August, at St Tiernan's Community School. Embracing the Kodaly pedagogy, she has attended many courses in Dublin and in the UK over the years.

