

MUSIC AS A SUBJECT IN COLLEGE

The question is often asked "Why have music in the college curriculum?"

Having the opportunity of a musical education should be viewed as a bonus in one's education. And music as a subject *must not be confused with a music school*, where one learns an instrument/s in a dedicated environment.

Music as a subject is a journey; historically - geographically - culturally.

It is a form of communication.

AIMS AND PURPOSE:

To open minds, to broaden horizons and knowledge. In so doing, hopefully engender an interest which could lead to further exploration. Perhaps even stimulate a more inquisitive mind. It can be seen as a "rounding off" of a school curriculum.

REALISATION:

- By taking an historical journey from prehistoric man, to present day, showing the changes in communication through musical sounds, and the evolution of music and instruments in each era.

The student is introduced to names he thought he never knew, but through experience, the teacher is able to highlight their innocent knowledge, and expand it.

- By taking a geographical tour through various countries and cultures, showing the approach and use of music through celebration, communication and spirituality. And finally combining this knowledge to show the thread of similarity of music in the various cultures.

- By offering a window into the Arts by expounding the benefits of dance, opera, musicals and ballet, past and present, and hoping to instil an appreciation and tolerance for the differences in choice.

- Exposing students to the playing of an instrument. The recorder being the most affordable and basic to learn, it offers co-ordination, the reading of music, but ultimately the opportunity of playing together as an ensemble, which can be used as a life skill.

- Singing has to be encouraged, and the myth of being out of tune, and therefore unable to participate has to be dispelled. We *can* all sing, and we *must* all sing!

IN TERMS OF ASSESSMENT

Given the limited time span for music as a subject, the teacher has to ascertain whether the above is being realised, by applying the following:

- Is it achievable, measureable and understandable?
- Is there evidence of effort and participation?
- In group work has the teaching led to confidence, communication, innovation and organisation.

Music touches all of our lives, and the teacher professional experience is here to make it more interesting, accessible and fun!