



St Mark's West Essex Catholic School

an Academy Trust School

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Headteacher Miss E Heaphy BSc MA PGCE NPQH

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Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: GCSE Music Coursework

As we start recording pupils' work for the all-important coursework submission, we wanted to let you know how you could support your children during this time.

The importance of the recorded element cannot be understated: it makes up 60% percent of the available marks for Music GCSE. The coursework involves recording two compositions and two performances, which is time-consuming and nerve-wracking for the pupils who are obviously keen to do well.

Regular practice of the pieces can help take some of the stress out of the recording process. It is clear that pupils' confidence and fluency are enhanced with regular bursts of practice. By encouraging your children to practise every day, you will help ensure they turn up to the recording sessions in a high state of readiness. This will also mean the recordings accurately reflect the quality of their work.

All recordings must be completed by Friday 27th April, but we aim to finish well before this date to reduce the pressure on pupils in the run-up to the exams. We do most of the recordings before school as this is when it is quietest, and there are obviously fewer interruptions at this time. Pupils are expected to sign up for the sessions until they have completed the coursework.

In preparation for the listening exam (40% of the GCSE), pupils would benefit hugely from studying the GCSE Music Bitesize site, particularly the sections on Composers, Music Styles and World Music. This is the link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zpf3cdm>.

We would appreciate any encouragement you could give during this time, particularly with urging pupils to practise at home.

Yours sincerely,

N Coplestone - Crow

Dr N Coplestone-Crow

Head of Music