

A Level Music



Why this subject?

A Level Music provides a wonderful opportunity for students to develop a range of musical skills, interests, and forms the basis for an informed and lasting love of music. Students will learn to perform, compose and appreciate different types of music, developing critical and creative thinking, cultural, aesthetic and emotional awareness, and the ability to make music individually and as part of a group. Its academic rigour lays down patterns and standards for critical judgement that will benefit each student in a multitude of different subjects and also in the work place.

Course Outline

Year 12

Free Composition – Students will research potential styles and explore composition writing skills. Students will learn the practical skills of harmonization and arranging for vocal/instrumental ensembles.

Content – Students will explore the genres and set works for Vocal Music, Film Music and Popular Music & Jazz

Year 13

Set Brief Composition– Students will explore the set brief and then compose their piece for completion by the December of Year 13.

Content – Students will then study the genres and set works for Instrumental Music, Fusions and New Directions. **Recital** – Recording will take place In March of Year 13



Why choose music?

Enjoyment.
Motivation.
Academic achievement.
Confidence.
Fulfilment.

Assessment Outline

Performance 30%: Students will be asked to perform a recital between 3-6 minutes in length as a soloist or as part of an ensemble. Students are encouraged to put together a recital of pieces which contrast in style and in technical demands.

Composition (worth 30% of coursework mark): Two compositions. A Free Composition written in a style of the students choosing. The second is written under jurisdiction of a set brief.

External Examination 40%: Students will study 2 set works under the following areas of study –

- Vocal Music (Bach & Vaughan Williams)
- Instrumental Music (C Schumann & Berlioz)
- Music for Film (Bernard Hermann & Danny Elfman)
- Popular Music and Jazz (Kate Bush, Beatles, Courtney Pine)
- Fusions (Debussy & Anoushka Shankar)
- New Directions (Stravinsky & Kaija Saariaho)

Careers and next steps

Whatever your hopes for your child's final years of study at school, A-level music is a wise choice. If they have a passion for a subject, they're much more likely to enjoy their study and be motivated to revise and practise. Yet there are so many other reasons why they'll benefit from studying music.

- It is an academic subject which counts towards any university course or work placement
- It will provide transferable skills (Independent learning, performance and presentation skills, confidence and self-esteem)
- Making music can help a young person maintain good mental health during a time of high pressure and anxiety.
- Students are more likely to succeed and achieve a higher grade if they study something they are good at and they enjoy.

Key Information

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| Exam Board | Edexcel (Pearson) |
| Qualification Type | A Level |
| Entry Requirements | Level 6 in GCSE Music. Grade 5 in instrument or voice. |
| Head of Department | Miss Davies |

