

# 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** – Area of Study E, Area of Study A, Independent Study, Mock Recital in June of Y12.

### Year 13

**Set Brief Composition**- Explore the set brief and then compose their piece for completion by the December of Year 13.

**Content** – Students will revisit the Areas of Study and work primarily on exam technique.

**Recital** – Recording will take place In March of Year 13



## Why choose A-level music?

**Enjoyment.**  
**Motivation.**  
**Academic achievement.**  
**Confidence.**  
**Fulfilment.**

## Assessment Outline

**Performance, 35%, 108 marks:** Students will be asked to perform a recital between 10-12 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, 25%, 72 marks:** 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%, 100 marks:** Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes

Students will study 2 set works under the following areas of study –

- **Area of Study A: The Symphony**
- **Independent Study:** Students will study one topic for this unit. Either, **Area of study B (Rock & Pop)**, **Area of study C (Musical Theatre)** or **Area of study D (Jazz)**.
- **Area of Study E: Into the Twentieth Century** (Impressionism, Expressionism, Serialism and Neo-Classicism)

## 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

Exam Board	Eduqas
Qualification Type	A Level
Entry Requirements	Level 6 in GCSE Music Grade 5 in instrument or voice
Head of Department	Miss Davies