

# Music

## A-Level



### What will I learn?

Through the study of A Level Music, you will develop and stimulate your creativity through a broad and exciting course. Students explore a range of different styles, processes or techniques, ensuring that there is something suitable for all interests. You will develop your ability to appraise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and develop understanding of musical contexts and an awareness of musical chronology. You will broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity via components of study that have a degree of flexibility to allow for emphasis on either performance or composition. During the course you will develop performing skills to help demonstrate an understanding of musical elements, style, sense of continuity, interpretation and expression. You will have an opportunity to develop composing skills to demonstrate the manipulation of musical ideas and the use of musical devices and conventions. You will have opportunities to develop awareness of music technologies and their use in the creation and presentation of music.

### How will I learn?

You will be taught by specialist teaching staff who have expertise within the music industry in addition to teaching at A level. Your lessons will be divided into time dedicated to performance, composition and appraisal with an element of synoptic learning in addition to shorter topics.

### How will I be assessed?

The AS and A2 exam follow similar components of study over two academic years:

Component 1: Performing (25% or 35%)

Component 2: Composing (25% or 35%)

Component 3: Appraisal (40%)

A final recital for component 1 and the compositions submitted for component 2 are assessed at the end of the two-year programme of study. Component 3 is assessed in the form of a 2 hr 15 min written paper at the end of the course. All work is externally assessed.

### Trips and Extracurricular activities

Due to the flexible use of rooms, there are opportunities to rehearse or work in the music department any working day of the week. We are fortunate to have practice rooms in addition to a recording studio and a recital room. There is a swing band, classical guitar ensemble and choir that Sixth Form students are strongly encouraged to join plus there are a range of performing opportunities within the local community.

### FAQs.

#### Do I need to be able to read music notation?

Yes. It is essential that you can read music notation fluently in treble and bass clefs.

#### Do I need to have passed GCSE Music?

Not necessarily as there are a small number of students who are able musicians but didn't take GCSE Music as an option in year 10. The ability to perform on at least one instrument to grade 4 standard is required.

#### Can I use my performance pieces for instrumental graded exams for the A level performances?

Yes, although it is important to recognise that A level performances are marked to a different set of assessment criteria.

#### How much homework is there for A level Music?

You will be expected to practise your main instrument for 30 – 40 mins four times a week minimum in addition to other written based homework tasks.

### Exam Board

Eduqas

### Skills Gained

Creative and  
critical thinking  
Develop imagination  
Independent  
learning  
Communication  
Team work  
Presentation  
Use of technologies

### Careers

Performer  
Composer  
Song-writer/  
arranger  
Teacher  
Music Therapist  
Arts administrator  
Conductor/musical  
director