

A-LEVEL

MUSIC



Contact

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to find out more information on Music at Bosworth Academy using the contact information below:

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A-LEVEL MUSIC

EXAM BOARD: EDUQAS

This course is a broad, coherent course that engages learners and allows them to pursue their own musical interests. At both Advanced Subsidiary Levels (AS) and A Level, students experience all three main musical disciplines of performing, composing and appraising.

NB – From September 2016 - AS Music and A Level Music are separate qualifications.

AS LEVEL

Component 1: Performing Music 30% of the total AS

Learners are required to give a performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study. The duration of the performance will be between 6 and 8 minutes.

Please note, [underlined from here] Minimum-performing standard for AS Level is Grade 5. [underlined ends here]

Component 2: Composing 30% of the total AS

Learners are required to prepare a portfolio of two compositions. The first must be a composition which reflects the musical language, techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition in response to a brief set by EDUQAS. The second is free composition for which learners set their own brief.

Component 3: Appraising 40% of the total AS mark – 1 hour 30min exam

This examination will assess knowledge and understanding of music through two areas of study. Area of study A is compulsory and learners then choose one further contrasting area of study; either area of study B, area of study C or area of study D.

Area of study A: The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1830)

Area of study B: Rock and Pop 1960-1990

Area of study C: Musical Theatre

Area of study D: Jazz 1920-1950

A LEVEL

Component 1: Performing Music 35% of the total A Level

Learners are required to give a performance consisting of a minimum of three pieces. At least one of these pieces must be as a soloist. The other pieces may be either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study. At least one other piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one other, different area of study. The total duration of all the pieces must be between 10 and 12 minutes.

Component 2: Composing Music 25% of the total A Level

Learners are required to prepare a portfolio of two compositions, one of which must reflect the musical language, techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition in response to a brief set by EDUQAS. The second composition is a free composition for which learners set their own brief.

Component 3: Appraising 40% of the total A Level – 2 hour 15min exam

This examination will assess knowledge and understanding of music through three areas of study. Area of study A is compulsory and learners then choose two further contrasting areas of study: one from either Area of Study B, Area of Study C or Area of Study D, and one from either area of study E or area of study F.

Area of study A: The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900)

Choose one from:

Area of study B: Rock and Pop

Area of study C: Musical Theatre

Area of study D: Jazz

Choose one from:

Area of study E: Into The Twentieth Century

Area of study F: Into The Twenty-first Century

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

B grade at GCSE Music

Grade 5 Music Theory or equivalent

AS Music: Grade 5 or equivalent on your main instrument or voice

A Level Music: Grade 6 or equivalent on your main instrument or voice

EXPECTATIONS:

In order to prepare for classroom learning and the wider practical nature of music, students will be expected to listen to a wide range of music, not only music from the set works; regularly practice and take part in ensemble playing in school and in their own time and undertake independent background research on composers and specific areas of music. Students will be expected to use independent study time to practice and compose.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/INDEPENDENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

The Music Department is a very busy, exciting place to study and students will be expected to take part in regular extra-curricular school activities, show Student Leadership in arranging recitals and performances with other students and show a high level of independence. Students will participate in arranged workshops, visits to Concert Halls, Theatres and local music events.

CAREER PATHWAYS:

Studying Music at A Level can lead to a career as: Professional Musician, Education, Creating and Marketing Music, Music Technology, Composer for film and TV.

Good combinations of other subject to study with Music are: Mathematics, Sciences, Geography, Theatre Studies, Art, English, Languages.