

A Level Music

Edexcel



Taking A Level Music

- ▶ This is a really engaging course in which you will investigate a wide variety of musical techniques and develop your knowledge and passion for music across a broad range of genres.
- ▶ You will use a combination of skills to research, analyse, evaluate, compose and perform music.
- ▶ You will be assessed in the three areas of performing, composing and appraising music.

Course Outline

▶ Performing (30%)

- ▶ Through the course you will hone your skills as a performer on your instrument, voice or realising music through the use of technology.
- ▶ You will be assessed in year 13 via a public recital in which you will perform for 8 minutes to a small audience. You can perform as a soloist, part of an ensemble or a combination of both. The recital will be recorded.
- ▶ In the recital you will be expected to perform at a minimum of ABRSM grade 6 standard.

Course Outline

▶ Composing (30%)

- ▶ You will undertake a range of composition tasks, with increasing independence, in order to understand and master particular composing techniques and to refine your craft. You will develop your own 'voice' as a composer.
- ▶ You will be assessed via the completion of two compositions in year 13:
 - One composition must be from either a list of briefs related to the areas of study, or a free composition. It must be at least 4 minutes in duration.
 - One composition must be from a list of briefs assessing compositional technique. It must be at least 1 minute in duration, unless the brief specifies a longer minimum duration.

Course Outline

- ▶ **Appraising (40%)**
- ▶ Throughout the course you will study a broad range of music in **six areas of study (AoS)**. There are three set works in each AoS. You will also deepen your knowledge of each area through wider listening.
- ▶ You are assessed in year 13 via a 2 hour exam in which you will listen to excerpts of music, answer short answer questions, complete aural dication exercises and complete two essays.

The Set Works

<p><u>Vocal Music</u></p> <p>Bach: <i>Cantata 'Ein Feste Burg'</i></p> <p>Mozart: <i>Opera 'The Magic Flute'</i></p> <p>Vaughan-Williams: <i>Song Cycle 'On Wenlock Edge'</i></p>	<p><u>Instrumental Music</u></p> <p>Vivaldi: <i>Concerto Grosso in D minor</i></p> <p>C. Schumann: <i>Piano Trio in G minor</i></p> <p>Berlioz: <i>'Symphony Fantastique'</i></p>	<p><u>Music for Film</u></p> <p>Elfman: <i>Cues from 'Batman Returns'</i></p> <p>Portman: <i>Cues from 'The Duchess'</i></p> <p>Herrmann: <i>Cues from 'Psycho'</i></p>
<p><u>Popular Music & Jazz</u></p> <p>C. Pine: <i>Tracks from 'Back in the Day'</i></p> <p>K. Bush: <i>Tracks from 'Hounds of Love'</i></p> <p>Beatles: <i>Tracks from 'Revolver'</i></p>	<p><u>Fusions</u></p> <p>Debussy: <i>'Estampes' (Impressionism)</i></p> <p>Familia Valera Miranda: <i>Tracks from 'Cana Quema' (Cuban/Euro fusion)</i></p> <p>A. Shankar: <i>Track from 'Breathing Under Water' (Indian/Bollywood/Pop Fusion)</i></p>	<p><u>New Directions</u></p> <p>Cage: <i>'Three Dances for two Prepared Pianos'</i></p> <p>Saariaho: <i>'Petals' for Cello and Electronics</i></p> <p>Stravinsky: <i>'The Rite Of Spring' (Nationalism)</i></p>

Entry Criteria

- ▶ GCSE Grade 6 or above in Music.
- ▶ Minimum performance standard of ABRSM grade 4 or equivalent on your instrument/voice/music tech (No need to have a graded exam certificate)
- ▶ The undertaking of regular lessons with a specialist tutor is advised.

Pathways

- ▶ Taking A level Music will prepare you for your next steps, whether that's further study of music, working as a musician or following another path.

Through studying music you will..

- ▶ Show you have the dedication to master and hone a skill that many admire
- ▶ Develop the ability to understand and creatively manipulate theoretical concepts into meaningful and imaginative works
- ▶ Develop an enquiring mind and the ability to think critically about how historical, cultural and political contexts influence culture
- ▶ Learn to present yourself and your ideas with confidence

Pathways - Music at Higher Education

University and college courses include:

- ▶ Music
- ▶ Musical theatre
- ▶ Music education
- ▶ Music and communities
- ▶ Sound and music for games
- ▶ Commercial song writing
- ▶ Music business
- ▶ Song writing
- ▶ Audio recording and production
- ▶ Music composition and technology
- ▶ Sound engineering
- ▶ Arts Administration
- ▶ Music Therapy

Conservatoire courses include:

- Instrumental performance
- Music (Classical)
- Master of Composition
- Bachelor of music
- Musical theatre performance
- Conducting
- Music Management

Enrichment

- ▶ We are really lucky to have a purpose built Music Hub, with specialist teaching rooms, rehearsal rooms and a recording studio. As A level music students you will be able to use the rehearsal spaces during your free periods as well as booking them at lunch times and after schools.
- ▶ You can have music tuition from our visiting music tutors -these would be scheduled within your free periods. We have tutors for strings, woodwind, brass, percussion, guitars, voice, piano and keyboards, music tech and steel pans.
- ▶ You will also be able to join our clubs and ensembles and would be encouraged to set up and lead one of your own
- ▶ You will be encouraged to take part in music concerts and events, such as our Summer Festival, and can even get involved in the planning and running of events if you are interested in developing Music Administration skills.

Trips and visits

- ▶ You will have the opportunity to attend a range of live concerts and performances - we have previously visited Birmingham's Symphony Hall, the Warwick Arts Centre, the Pitt-Rivers Museum of Instruments and a professional recording studio.
- ▶ We will also find opportunities to perform in the local community, for example at the Galanos House - a local British Legion Care Home.

What our music students say...

▶ Why did you choose to study A level music?

'Seeing experimental and Jazz [set works] seemed really interesting' Sion

'Always had a passion for music and I'm fascinated by how it can sound. I want to develop my instrumental skills' Philippe

▶ What have you enjoyed about the course so far?

'working with independence, encouragement to think musically at a higher level' Philippe

'I've enjoyed the expanding knowledge, as you get to learn about music as a whole, not only certain styles' Bradley

▶ What type of student would enjoy this course?

'The must enjoy music in all respects and forms and be able to appreciate all genres to some extent as oppose to simply enjoying one style format or genre.' Cameron

What our music students say...

▶ What type of student would enjoy this course?

‘Someone who has a general love of music, or history, and is curious about it all’ Sion

▶ What do you think will make you successful on this course?

‘Open-mindedness to listen to new styles’ Sion

▶ How do you think having an A level in music will help you in the future?

‘it will demonstrate my dedication, in any future endeavours’ Philippe

‘it will give you confidence in public performing or presenting’ Sion