



MUSIC
YEAR 11-12

Hit The Ground Running

MUSIC – *A sound choice!*

Welcome to the wonderful world of **Music A-Level**. (Edexcel)

You have chosen a subject that encompasses performing composing and studying many different styles of music. Whatever your taste, you are guaranteed to find set works that you enjoy and to expand your current knowledge and palate.

THE GOOD NEWS:

You will most like have just completed a Music GCSE and you will use all of the same disciplines over the next two years.

So what is new?



UPGRADE AND UPSCALE

Terminology: You will naturally need to analyse and discuss music in greater detail, and this will require you to learn more musical terms and concepts. These might be based on the elements of music (which remain at the core of analysis) or names and terms that are used in specific styles of music.

Theory: Music is not random and you will need to learn more about the way it is constructed and notated, the choice of harmony used, the way a rhythm is organised and how the music is structured.

Are you the new Mozart, Puccini or John Williams? Maybe not, but you will learn how to craft your own compositions with more care and detail than before, using theory and set works to inspire your own ideas

What will I need?

You will be given textbooks and workbooks at the start of the Autumn Term.

However, you will also need to have:

- A sturdy A4, preferably four-hole ring binder.
- A set of dividers
- A set of at least five different highlighter pens.
- Your 'device' to type and edit notes.
- An inquisitive mind to help you explore new music and broaden your tastes.



Can I prepare further?

- Grade 5 (ABRSM) Music Theory is not a requirement, but understanding theory to that level is a good grounding. If you have not taken it, why not buy a workbook and make your way through it?
- Keep taking lessons – Make sure you have a good practice regime and talk to your teacher regularly about your progress.
- Buy a manuscript pad or notebook and use it to jot down any composition ideas you might have while playing your instrument.
- Listen to the radio and go to some concerts, especially for earlier genres of music that you might not have heard much before.
- The biggest musical festival in the world (The Proms) happens on our doorstep and has everything from Classical to Pop to World Music- don't ignore it!

PREPARATION CHALLENGE

Prepare a Powerpoint on three different pieces of music.
(only use one movement of a larger piece or one song from an album)

The pieces of music can be from totally different genres.

(Use the included extended terminology sheet to describe different aspects of the music.)

Your PowerPoint must include a guide to the strongest features in each piece, features that it has in common with the others and any features that make it unique.

Try to include information on all the different elements.