

A Level Music

The Course

The A Level Music course build on skills students have studied at GCSE and enables students to explore a wide range of music through listening, performing and composing. Throughout the course we expect you to have a willingness to explore and experience a broad range of musical genres and be open to new ideas. We will also organise some concert trips to see world renowned orchestras, and expect you to perform at tea-time concerts. Many skills will be taught in the first year, giving you a time to be musically creative before you start your coursework.

The Content

The performance unit (35%) is a ten minute performance as a soloist and/or ensemble. Over the course of the two years, there will be plenty of performing opportunities, both formal and informal. The choice of repertoire for this unit is decided by the students and teacher. For the composition unit (25%) you will respond to an externally set brief such as a poem, photograph or notation (Composition 1) and will also complete a free composition (Composition 2). The combined duration of the compositions must be a minimum of four and a half minutes. For the appraising exam (40%) you will learn to identify musical features and explore the historical and social context of a variety of repertoire. Prepared pieces include a repertoire from concerti, piano sonatas, opera, Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell and Daft Punk,

Assessment

Performance 35%, composition 25% - both of these units are teacher assessed.
The appraisal exam 40% is externally marked.

Subject entry requirements

GCSE Music grade 6 or above, and the ability to read music fluently by the start of the course (support can be offered prior to starting the course)

Pathways/Careers

Students go on to successfully study or work in many fields, including:

Music Therapy	Musician	Sound Technician	Theatre
Music	Radio	Production	A&R
Film	Creative Writing	Nursing	Counselling
Teaching	Sales	Marketing	Public Relations