

# Music

Music is a dynamic, creative, and challenging subject that draws upon the experiences and knowledge gained at GCSE and from years of learning, practising, and performing on an instrument or vocally.

The course provides a comprehensive introduction to advanced music studies, including performing, musical history and theory, composing and analysing music. Students will learn about music in context from a wide range of composers, exploring many musical styles and periods, covering vocal and instrumental music, fusion, film music, and popular music/jazz.

Students are encouraged to perform regularly at School concerts, informal recitals, and large-scale shows. Many co-curricular groups enhance the academic study of music by covering a complete range of musical styles.



## COURSE CONTENT

An anthology of set works is studied throughout the course:

### Vocal Music:

- J.S Bach – Cantata BWV80
- Vaughan Williams – On Wenlock Edge

### Instrumental Music:

- Clara Schumann – Piano Trio in G Minor
- Berlioz – Symphonie Fantastique

### Music for Film:

- Bernard Herrmann – Psycho
- Danny Elfman – Batman Returns

### Popular Music and Jazz:

- Beatles – Revolver Album
- Courtney Pine – Back in the Day
- Kate Bush – Hounds of Love

### Fusions:

- Debussy – Estampes: Nos 1 and 2
- Anoushka Shankar – Breathing Under Water

### New Directions:

- Saariaho – Petals for Solo Cello and Electronics
- Stravinsky – The Rite of Spring

## ASSESSMENT

All course content is examined at the end of the two-year course. The assessment consists of two coursework elements and a written examination.

### Component 1:

Performing An 8-10 minute solo/ensemble performance given on an instrument or singing. The recital is recorded on a chosen date in March/April of Year 13 and sent to examiners as an MP3. Marks are awarded depending on the Grade standard of the piece chosen. 30% of final marks.

### Component 2:

Composing Over the course, students will complete two compositions. Both compositions are entered as detailed musical scores and MP3 recordings and must, together, total a minimum of 6 minutes. 30% of final marks.

- Composition 1: Free Composition to a brief that you like set by the exam board. Minimum 4 minutes. 40 marks.
- Composition 2: Compositional Technique chosen from a list of briefs. Composed in 4–6 hours under controlled conditions. Minimum 1 minute. 20 marks.

### Component 3:

Appraising Music Listening and written exam. An anthology of set works provides the basis for the exam. 2 hours 10 minutes. 40% of final marks.

## FUTURE PATHWAYS

Music A Level is respected as a challenging course by universities and employers alike due to the wide range of skills it demands of its students. It is a pre-requisite for music-based degree courses and is regarded as a valuable secondary subject to other courses such as humanities, the arts or social sciences as it demonstrates both creative and analytical skills.

## SKILLS REQUIRED

A minimum of Grade 6 standard is required on the student's principal instrument, in addition to confidence with reading sheet music, orchestral scores and music theory. Students will have a keen interest in creating and listening to different styles of music; they will wish to broaden their experience and deepen their understanding of both live and recorded music.

## ENRICHMENT

Music students are offered many opportunities to take part in enrichment activities, including a huge variety of clubs and ensembles. We also hold numerous concerts throughout the year.

## EXAM BOARD

EDEXCEL 9MU0



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