



Head of subject:

**Miss R Ryan**

Minimum entry requirements:

**Grade 6 in GCSE Music**

**ABRSM (or equivalent)**

**Grade 6 in one instrument**

# Music

## What will you study?

We follow the Eduqas 2016 A Level Music syllabus:

**COMPONENT 1: PERFORMING** – Students have the opportunity to perform as a soloist and/or in ensembles. Performances can be in any style and on any instrument but must last between 10 and 12 minutes, and be of a grade 7 standard or above. Performances must be recorded after 1st March in the year of accreditation. It is imperative that students opting to take A Level Music are performing at a Grade 6 (ABRSM, Trinity, Rock School or equivalent) standard at the beginning of Year 12. Students are able to 'specialise' in performance, increasing the weighting of this component.

**COMPONENT 2: COMPOSING** – This unit encourages students to develop compositional skills with a grounding in traditional compositional techniques. Students must compose two pieces lasting between 4 and 6 minutes, including one to a set brief released in the year of accreditation. Students will need to be able to fluently read treble and bass clef; therefore, it is advised that all students should have taken, or plan to take, ABRSM Grade 5 Theory before starting the course. Students are able to 'specialise' in composition, increasing the weighting of this component.

**COMPONENT 3: WRITTEN EXAMINATION** – Students learn two set works and a comprehensive overview of the history of Western Classical Music from 1600 to the present day in preparation for the written examination. Students will need to be able to identify musical features and understand the social and historical context of a given piece, as well as having a good knowledge of related works to draw comparative points.

## How will you be assessed during the course?

There are two pathways that students must choose between, requiring them to choose either performance or composition as their 'specialism'. We advise most students to follow the performance pathway, although this is not a fixed decision for every candidate; the weighting of this particular pathway is outlined below.

**COMPONENT 1** = Coursework, externally assessed by a visiting examiner, 35% of total.

**COMPONENT 2** = Coursework, externally assessed, 25% of total.

**COMPONENT 3** = Examination lasting 2 hours 15 minutes, externally assessed, 40% of total.

## Where will this course lead?

This qualification develops not only musical understanding, but the evaluative and critical thinking skills imperative to success at undergraduate level and in any field of work. It is of course an excellent foundation for students wishing to study Music at University or Conservatoire, where our past students have enjoyed great success. It should not be considered equal to a Grade 8 practical or Theory qualification, although these are excellent supplementary qualifications.

Music A level is a good footing for anyone wishing to study classical or popular Music, Music Technology, Composition, Performance or Music Therapy at Degree-level. For those not wishing to study Music at University, the qualification is well regarded as an academic A level by Russell Group Universities and demonstrates creative and analytical skills which are sought after by University admissions tutors. Many of our past A level Music students have gone on to careers in related fields, such as Music Therapy, Academia and Teaching, in addition to those who have enjoyed the A level as a complementary subject amongst a scientific or linguist diet, now studying Medicine, Engineering or Languages.

## Further information

6th form musicians are encouraged to run their own ensembles in addition to our extensive extra-curricular timetable which includes an orchestra, wind band, big band, three choirs and smaller ensembles for individual instruments. Additionally, there are opportunities for solo musicians to perform in our concerts and other events throughout the school year. Students studying A level Music are offered 30 minutes free instrumental tuition per week on an instrument of their choice.

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music/as-a-level/>