



Music

Head of subject:

Miss R Ryan

Minimum entry requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE Music

ABRSM Grade 5 Theory

**ABRSM (or equivalent) Grade 6
in one instrument**

What will you study?

We follow the Eduqas 2016 A Level Music syllabus:

UNIT 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 for over 8 minutes and be of a grade 7 standard or above. Recitals will be assessed by a visiting examiner on or 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; all A level musicians are entitled to 30-minutes free instrumental tuition in school per week, on an instrument of their choice.

UNIT 2: COMPOSING – This unit encourages students to develop compositional skills in two distinct compositions over the two-year course which should last in excess of four minutes combined. Students will need to be able to fluently read standard notation; therefore it is advised that all students should have taken, or plan to take, ABRSM Grade 5 before starting the course.

UNIT 3: WRITTEN EXAMINATION – Students study key works from three 'Areas of Study': the Western Classical Tradition, Musical Theatre, and twentieth century art music. Students will need to be able to identify musical features and understand the social and historical context of each period or style, as well as having a good knowledge of appropriate works to draw comparative points. There are four set works, and six key composers, studied as part of the course which form the foundations of the paper's content which is comprised of six questions.

How will you be assessed during the course?

UNIT 1 = Coursework, externally assessed, 35% of total*

UNIT 2 = Coursework, externally assessed, 25% of total*

UNIT 3 = Examination, externally assessed, 40% of total

*Students have the option to specialise in either performance or composition, which changes the weighting of each component. Most students choose to specialise in performance, but this is not compulsory nor need this be a unanimous decision across the cohort.

Where will this course lead?

This qualification is an excellent foundation for students wishing to study Music at University or Conservatoire; 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, jazz or popular music, Ethnomusicology, Music Technology or Sound Engineering, 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 admissions tutors. Whilst Music A level naturally lends itself to a degree in Music or a related subject, including the other performing arts or a joint-honours degree, A level musicians are often successful in pursuing seemingly unrelated subjects at University, such as Law and Medicine, where their experiences as musicians prove very beneficial thanks to the development of transferrable skills such as public performance, managing nerves, analysing contexts and intentions, as well as the skill and confidence of musical activity itself.

Further information

Sixth 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, three chamber music ensembles, and smaller woodwind ensembles; additionally, there are opportunities for solo musicians to perform in our concerts and other events throughout the school year, culminating in Year 13's final concert where one student will have the opportunity to perform a movement of a concerto with the orchestra for the Concerto Shield.

Students' understanding is extended and enriched through the setting of regular supplementary and super-curricular activities, ranging from theory questions preparing for Grades 6-8 theory, links to lecture series ran by Universities around the world, and essay competitions which have cross-curricular benefits. Although the Eduqas specification does not require the study of composition techniques – such as two-part counterpoint and four-part Bach chorale writing – all students are taught these skills to deepen their skills in composition.

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