

Music

Overview:

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why Study? This is an exciting and enriching course which is well respected by universities and other higher education establishments. The course allows you stretch your musical skills to explore a variety of different musical styles through performing, composing and listening appreciation tasks.

A level Music is a mix of creative, practical, academic and analytical skills. It is suitable for those students who wish to extend the skills acquired at GCSE and for musicians who have achieved grade 5 on their chosen instruments.

You will compose, listen to and analyse a wide variety of music from 1600 to the present day. All students need to be dedicated musicians as performance contributes as a significant part of the course.

Content:

Key Units/ Content:

- * **Performance:** In your first year you will perform pieces on an instrument (or instruments) of your choice. By the end of Y13, your performance recital should last for a minimum of 8 minutes (30%)
- * **Composition:** In both years you will compose two pieces, one will be in a style of your own choice/ or to a set brief and the second will be composed for one of the four briefs assessing technique set by the exam board in Y13. Both compositions need to last for a combined total of 6 minutes (30%)
- * **Listening & Appraising:** In each year you will study a selection of pieces which you will be asked about in an external listening examination. The genres you will study this year include; Film Music, Instrumental Music, Popular Music and Jazz, Vocal Music, Fusions and New Direction (40%)

Key Skills:

- Analyse a piece of music in detail
- Write music effectively using 4 part harmony
- Compose music to a given brief
- Construct a varied performance programme
- Rehearse effectively

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Music – grade 5 or BTEC - Merit as well as the ability to play an instrument to a high level (G5 or higher).

How Assessed:

How many exams: 1

Breakdown of marks: Performance 30%, Composing 30%, Listening and Appraising 40%

Coursework: Performance recital and Compositions

Progression:

Careers:

There are many careers that lead on from A level Music such as: *Peripatetic teaching, Sound Engineer, Solo Performer, Music Teacher, Instrumentalist, Music production, Session Musician, Composer, Song Writer, Disc Jockey*

Universities and employers are frequently impressed by students who have studied A level Music due to the range of skills it can demonstrate such as organisation, reliability, commitment, creativity and self-discipline.

University Courses: Music / Music Technology / Music Therapy