
Music

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mrs Robinson

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 at Music GCSE or grade 5 instrumental standard. Due to the demanding nature of the course, students need to undertake five hours of unsupervised work each week in addition to the formal lessons; this is particularly relevant to practical coursework and performance-based tasks.

What will I study?

The first year course is comprised of three units;

Appraising Music, Performance and Composition.

You will develop your listening and analysis skills as well as your contextual understanding.

There will be various performance opportunities for you throughout the year and you will be encouraged to develop both your solo and ensemble skills.

The composition unit consists of the creation of two pieces of music. One in response to a given brief, the other is a free composition.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying music at A level if you:

- enjoy playing your musical instrument and participate in extra-curricular activities
- wish to develop and deepen your understanding of music and its context
- want to explore music by creating your own compositions.

What other subjects does it complement?

Music goes well with other arts-based subjects such as English, Drama and Art. Music also goes well with Mathematics and some Sciences due to the mathematical nature of some compositions and the physics of sound – there has been extensive research into the links between musicians and mathematicians. Music can also complement ICT through the use of music technology.

Where can it lead?

Music A level would be beneficial to those seeking to develop or specialise in music at degree level. It would support those wishing to pursue Music professionally, either on a performance or compositional basis. Music A level can assist a career in teaching in institutions ranging from primary schools to higher education establishments. Other opportunities lie in music publishing, journalism, musicology, therapy and the recording industry. Music is also a well-respected qualification amongst other employers due to the individual demands and rigours of the course and the ability of musicians to work as part of an ensemble or team.