

Course Information



A Level Music

What is A Level Music?

A Level Music is about:

- Developing musical understanding through performance, composition and listening
- Improving performance skill as a soloist using a chosen instrument
- Developing technical compositional skills
- Expressing your own musical ideas through creative composition
- Improving analytical skills through the study of musical focus works

Entry requirements: Grade 5 at GCSE and a solo audition

Year 12:

What will the course cover?

Developing skills and techniques for each of the 3 units of the course.

- ◆ Performance—students will explore material in preparation for a recital to last a minimum of 8 minutes and to be performed during Year 13. Draft performances will take place during the year.
- ◆ Composition—techniques of compositions will be explored through workshops and composition exercises in preparation for composing to a brief in Year 13.
Composition Techniques—students will study techniques of Bach Chorale harmony focusing on cadences and part-writing.
- ◆ Appreciation Focus Works—Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Fusions, Film Music. Students will learn how to analyse musical scores and consider music within wider context.

Year 13

What will the course cover?

Performance

- ◆ Students will complete preparation for a recital to last a minimum of 8 minutes.
- ◆ Draft performances will take place during the year with a final performance completed by April.

Composition

- ◆ Composition briefs are released in September and students complete a composition lasting no less than 4 minutes, to be completed by the end of April.

Composition Techniques

- ◆ Students will build on their study of techniques of Bach Chorale harmony focusing on modulation, handling dissonance and developing rhythmic and melodic interest.
- ◆ Completion of 2 Bach chorales for submission between April and May of Year 13.

Appreciation Focus Works

- ◆ New Directions, Pop Music
- ◆ Development of aural recognition through dictation and responses to unfamiliar pieces.

How is it assessed?

Exam Board: Edexcel

Students take one exam based on a selection of the focus works studied over the two years, including a range of short answers and essay responses at the end of year 13.

Submissions for compositions and performance are completed at school and marked externally.

What next?

Further study and career opportunities in music include university degrees in Music or Arts related subjects, Musician, Composer, Arranger, Arts Management, Sound Engineer, Music Therapy, Music in Education, British Forces Musician. For more information about the courses, your suitability for them, and possible career paths for students with Music see Mrs Hollis-Brown, Teacher in Charge of Music, Ms Walker or Mr Rees.