



MUSIC A-LEVEL

WHY SHOULD I STUDY A-LEVEL MUSIC?

This is a highly respected qualification aimed not only at pupils who may want to study music at university, but those who wish to deepen their understanding of music. The course is designed to engage students critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

Pupils study and analyse a range of set works in order to nurture in-depth musical understanding. The six Areas of Study are: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions and New Directions. Through eighteen pieces, in-depth appraising skills are developed. Creative tasks involve performance and composition where practical skills are developed.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are three areas of assessment. Coursework accounts for 60% of the total marks. This is split equally between performing and composing. Pupils record performances totalling eight minutes. The standard expected is around Grade 6-7. The composition component encourages pupils to explore different styles with the free composition. Whilst the stylistic exercises involve the study of more formal harmony.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Pupils build many transferrable skills including, appraising, and analysing, creativity, presentation, confidence for performing in front of other people. A development of critical and creative thinking, and cultural, aesthetic, and emotional awareness. It also encourages independent thought and the ability self-evaluate and refine work.

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

Music at university or Conservatoires is an obvious route, but many pupils go on to study other subjects in further education such as Sciences, Humanities, Architecture, Medicine and many more.

Exam Board: Edexcel

