

MUSIC

This course offers a solid musical foundation, requiring performing, composing, listening and analytical skills in almost equal measure and with considerable scope for the development of each individual's special talents. You will improve your skills in performing and composing in a range of styles. You will listen to a wide variety of music and develop a more informed appreciation of how and why it was written and/or performed. As a Sixth Form music student, you will be encouraged to take some responsibility for music within the school, participating in activities and taking the lead whenever possible.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A keen interest in creating and listening to different styles of music and a wish to broaden your experience and deepen your understanding of both live and recorded music; the ability to perform on an instrument or sing to a standard that is roughly equivalent to a pass at Grade 4.

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

Music links well with Modern Languages, English and History but can also be a good complement to studying science subjects.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This AS/A-level in Music can lead to further study in Music or Performing Arts in Higher Education at degree or HND level. Music can be used as part of your course to broaden your studies and may lead on to a career in the music industry.

COURSE CONTENT

The AS units are:

Unit 1: Performing Music

In this unit you will develop your skills as a performer. You can perform on any musical instrument or sing and will have the opportunity to take part in ensemble performances as well as solo performing.

Unit 2: Composing

In this unit you will learn the craft of composing, leading to the creation of a 3 minute piece in response to a chosen brief.

Unit 3: Developing Musical Understanding

Throughout the course, you will be expected to develop and improve your listening skills so that you can recognise different sounds and make judgements about performances. This unit is in three parts. In

Part 1 you will answer aural questions related to instrumental and vocal music in a range of styles. For Part 2 you will gain a more detailed knowledge of either instrumental or vocal set works. In Part 3 you will study diatonic harmony and tonality.

The A2 units are:

Unit 4: Extended Performance

For this unit, you will perform a short recital.

Unit 5: Composition And Technical Study

This unit has two sections: composition and technical study. The composition further develops students' composition skills. The technical study section builds on the knowledge and awareness of harmony gained in Unit 3 through the medium of pastiche studies. You will also extend the compositional techniques acquired in Unit 2.

Unit 6: Further Musical Understanding

This unit tests all the knowledge, understanding and skills you have developed across the whole course. Set works from an anthology provide the focus for much of the unit. It also involves listening to a wide range of unfamiliar music.

ASSESSMENT

Unit 1

Teacher-assessed 5 to 6 minute performance. Externally moderated.

Unit 2

One free composition (supervised coursework) from a choice of four briefs — externally assessed.

Unit 3

2-hour examination: Section A: Listening
Section B: Investigating musical styles: Section C: Understanding chords and lines.

Unit 4

A 12 to 15 minute assessment performance of a balanced programme of music. Internally assessed, externally moderated.

Unit 5

Students must complete two tasks in this unit choosing from either one composition and one technical study or two compositions or two technical studies. Completed under controlled conditions. Externally assessed.

Unit 6

2-hour examination: Section A: Aural analysis
Section B: Music in context
Section C: Continuity and change in instrumental music.