

A-LEVEL MUSIC



INFORMATION
for students and parents

2025 ENTRY

MUSIC

This course offers a solid musical foundation, requiring performing, composing, listening and analytical skills in almost equal measure; there is considerable scope for the development of the 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. Sixth Form Music students are 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 6.

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

Music can be studied at either a university or a conservatoire, which focuses on performing. The music industry is vast and there are a wealth of job opportunities – as a composer, with a record company, running arts festivals, as a music critic, in music therapy and in sound engineering, to name a few.

COURSE CONTENT

Exam Board: OCR

A-level Music:

The course contains three units – Performing, Composing and Listening & Appraising. There are two pathways that candidates may choose from:

Option A:

Performing: 25%; minimum length 6 minutes
Composing: 35%; minimum length 8 minutes
Listening & Appraising: 40%

Option B:

Performing: 35%; minimum length 10 minutes
Composing: 25%; minimum length 4 minutes
Listening & Appraising: 40%

COURSE FORMAT

Unit 1: Performing

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: Composition

Candidates complete two compositions, one to a brief set by OCR and one free composition

Unit 3: Listening and Appraising

Through studying a variety of genres, you will develop and improve your listening skills so that you can recognise different sounds and make judgements about performances. Knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language will be appraised through the context of four areas of study and you will be asked in the exam to apply knowledge to unfamiliar works.

Students follow four Areas of Study:

Areas of Study 1 and 2 are compulsory:

- Area of Study 1: Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven
- Area of Study 2: Popular Song: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band

Candidates then choose to study two areas from the following four Areas of Study:

- Area of Study 3: Developments in Instrumental Jazz 1910 to the present day
- Area of Study 4: Religious Music of the Baroque Period
- Area of Study 5: Programme Music 1820–1910
- Area of Study 6: Innovations in Music 1900 to the present day

ASSESSMENT

Unit 1

Teacher-assessed performance.
Externally moderated.

Unit 2

Compositions are externally assessed.

Unit 3

Examination:

- Analysing and evaluating music
- Familiar and unfamiliar pieces
- Prescribed works
- Questions based on aural extracts



MADE FOR GIRLS AGE 4 - 18

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