



Music

Exam Board: Edexcel

Contact teacher: Mrs S Tidbury or Mr R Spinner

Why study Music?

A-level Music is an academic subject which develops your understanding and knowledge to allow you to communicate through music as a performer and composer. You will develop your skills as a performer as well as increase your knowledge of compositional techniques.

Throughout the course, you will study harmony and composition which will allow you to apply your understanding in a stylistic manner. You will analyse a range of different styles of music by aurally recognising key musical devices. Aural awareness will be developed through active listening, dictation and singing. You will study a series of set works from a wide range of styles where you are expected to discuss and evaluate, through essay writing, the devices and techniques used.

The performance expectations are very high and throughout the course you will be developing your performance skills in workshops and master classes.

A-level Music is about developing and preparing you as a musician and equipping you with the skills to progress to university and industry.

Course details

Component 1 Performing	Total performance time of 8 minutes. Performance can be solo and/or ensemble.	30% coursework
Component 2 Composing	2 Compositions 1 free or free choice brief – minimum 4 minutes 1 brief assessed technique – minimum 1 minute Together total minimum of 6 minutes.	30% coursework
Component 3 Appraising	6 areas of study with 3 set works in each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocal music • Instrumental music • Music for Film • Popular music and jazz • Fusions • New Directions 	40% 2 hour exam

How is the course taught and assessed?

The course is taught through a mixture of practical and theoretical lessons. Students are expected to spend at least one hour per day practicing their first study instrument.

You will be able to take part in a range of ensembles and performances to support your development as a musician.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to be proficient in an instrument to a standard of at least grade 5. Students will need to have achieved a 5 in GCSE music. Grade 5 theory will be considered as an alternative to GCSE Music. Students should have an understanding of music theory to at least grade 3 standard.

Career routes and popular combinations

Students who follow A-level music often take the subject further and apply for music courses at university. Music A-level will support an application for a range of other courses that are not music-related. Examples of progression routes from past students have included: French, Journalism, Music Technology, Business Management, Psychology and Engineering.