

A Level Music

What will I learn?

You will explore music through performing, composing and the study of 18 set works. You will analyse your own and other composers' music under a variety of elements of music including texture, structure, melody, harmony, instrumentation, etc.

How is the course structured?

There are 3 components in the A level specification: Unit 1 Performance; Unit 2 Composition; Unit 3 Appraising. In Unit 1 – Performance, you will perform as a soloist or as part of an ensemble for at least 8 minutes. In Unit 2 – Composition, you will compose two pieces of music. In Unit 3 – Appraising you will study 18 set works in varying depth, from six areas of study.

How will I study?

You will study performing through the practical aspect of performing in lessons, however students will benefit from having individual instrumental/vocal lessons outside class. In composition you will learn how basic and more advanced structures work, how to write an effective melody and apply harmony to it, and also how to create musical variety in texture, tonality, dynamics and a number of other elements both in free composition and technical composition. The set works necessitate a more academic approach, allied with the chance to experience the set works practically where possible.

How will I be assessed?

Performances and compositions are recorded and assessed within the academy, usually at the start of the Summer term of year 13, and moderated by external examiners. The Appraising unit is assessed by a formal written examination of 2 hours. Unit 1 Performance is worth 30% of the final grade, Unit 2 Composition is worth 30% of the final grade and Unit 3 Appraising is worth 40% of the final grade.

NB: This AS Level or A Level qualification will only run if a suitable number of students choose the A Level as an option.

