

Music

Exam Board: AQA

Music in the sixth form offers students opportunities to study through both practical and academic disciplines. If you are wanting to take Music at A Level it is expected that you have studied GCSE Music and are the equivalent of grade 5 or above on your instrument. In addition to the work in class there will be a number of opportunities for music students to expand their musical horizons through extra-curricular activities, including musical productions and many concerts.

We have three Areas of Study:

Area of Study 1 – Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910

- Baroque: the solo concerto
- Classical: the operas of Mozart
- Romantic: the piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg

Area of Study 2 – Pop Music

- Stevie Wonder
- Joni Mitchell
- Muse
- Beyoncé
- Daft Punk
- Labrinth

Area of Study 3 – Music for Media

- Bernard Herrmann
- Hans Zimmer
- Michael Giacchino
- Thomas Newman
- Nobuo Uematsu

A Level Components	Information	Percentage of A Level
Component 1 : Appraising Music	Section A: Listening (similar to GCSE) Section B: Analysis Section C: Essay	40% of A Level grade
Component 2 : Performance	A 10 - 12 minute performance	35% of A Level grade
Component 3 : Composition	Composition 1: compose to a brief set by AQA Composition 2: a free composition	25% of A Level grade

Why you should consider studying Music in the Sixth Form

Music is Science

It is exact, specific; and it demands exact acoustics.

Music is Mathematical

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time which must be done instantaneously.

Music is a World Language

Most of the terms are in Italian, German or French; and the notation is certainly not English. Music is the most complete and universal language.

Music is History

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, taking on the emotion of a nation, region or a people. It is the only Art form we can hear as people hundreds of years ago had.

Music is Physical Education

It requires fantastic coordination of the fingers, hands, arms, lips and facial muscles, and control of diaphragmatic, back, stomach and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

Music is Art

It allows a human being to take technical and sometimes difficult areas of learning and translate them into human emotion.

This is Why We Study Music

Not because we expect you to major in music later on in life. Not because we expect people to play music all their lives.

Frequently Asked Questions

What provision is there for instrumental/singing lessons?

The music department is proud to offer students a high standard of music tuition for A Level music students, and it is expected that you will be having individual lessons on your main instrument for around 45 minutes a week, of which 30 minutes will be paid for by the school. For further information contact Miss Glover, Head of Music.

What music will we be listening to?

We have a long list of different composers we need to study over the two years. You will be expected to listen to a lot of these outside of lessons as well as in lesson time. The list of composers is on the first page of the Music description.

Will we be doing a lot of composing?

Similar to GCSE, you will need to compose 2 compositions but you will need to spend a lot more time outside of lesson time completing these. For this reason, it is expected that you spend a minimum of an hour a week in the Music rooms completing coursework.

Natalie Glover, Head of Music