

Music: Top Tips for Success at A Level



- Be organised – keep all your notes and homework in one folder. Have separate sections for each set work and keep it tidy!
- Keep a glossary of key terms at the back of your folder.
- Seek advice immediately if you don't understand a concept – it may come up again in future pieces so you will need a clear understanding.
- Keep an open mind! We will be studying a wide range of styles, genres and eras and it is important to appreciate each piece even if it is not something you would choose to listen to.
- Keep up to date with all compulsory homework and do not miss deadlines – particularly for the coursework elements of the course.
- Always catch up on any work missed through absence. You can arrange a one-to-one session with your teacher to help you fill any gaps.
- Re-read your notes throughout the year and keep listening to the pieces even when we've finished analysing them. It is easier to keep your knowledge 'topped up' rather than waiting for the end of the course to revise.
- Wider listening: find and listen to examples of similar pieces that we are studying. If we study a piece by Haydn, listen to other pieces from the Classical era. Similarly, if we study a Blues piece, listen to other pieces written in this style.
- Plan your instrumental practice and stick to it, e.g. half an hour a day. The majority of your recital preparation is completed in your own time so ensure that you keep a regular practice routine.
- Try and complete as many drafts of your composition as possible. The more drafts you complete, the more feedback you will receive and the better your piece will be!

Students' tips on how to succeed in Music

- *“Don't ever feel like you're asking a stupid question! If in doubt, just shout out!”*
- *“Keep all paperwork filed (chronologically) for quick reference when revising.”*
- *“Be careful not to rush your work as you can make silly mistakes.”*
- *“Don't underestimate the performance. It is expected that you will work on that in your own time so don't forget it!”*
- *Listen to the pieces regularly; being able to hear the piece in your head is extremely useful during the exam.”*