

A LEVEL MUSIC
(AQA specification)

Students wishing to follow this course should normally have achieved at least a grade 5 in Music at GCSE and have an understanding of the theory of music to a similar level. They should be able to perform on their first study instrument, or voice, to at least a grade 5 standard. Students should be genuinely interested in performing, composing and listening to music of different eras and styles.

Students will be expected to participate in a variety of musical ensembles and will need to spend adequate time practising their instruments. The student who enjoys these activities is the one who will gain most from the course.

There are three areas of study to the course:

Performance (35% weighting)

This unit provides students with opportunities to perform as a soloist and/or in ensembles. Teachers and students are free to choose music in any style. Any instrument(s) and/or voices(s) are acceptable as part of an assessed performance of a balanced programme of music lasting for a minimum of 10 minutes. Notated and/or improvised performances may be submitted.

Composition (25% weighting)

This unit encourages students to develop their composition skills leading to the creation of 2 pieces. One is a free composition where students may choose which style to compose in and what instruments they wish to compose for and the other is to a set brief.

Appraising Music (40% weighting)

This unit concerns listening to music, familiar and unfamiliar, and understanding how it works. Students will study set works from Baroque solo concertos, the Operas of Mozart, Music in Media and Jazz.

Students will be assessed on their knowledge of stylistic features in the listening section, their ability to identify a range of musical devices through reading a score and will write extended answer questions from the set works.

GCSE requirements:-

English Language – grade 4

*Music – grade 5 **and/or** ABRSM Grade 5 theory*

Students should be able to perform to at least grade 5 standard on their first study instrument, or voice.