

Music



Level: A Level Music

Exam Board: Edexcel

How is the course divided?

The course is divided into three parts; performing, composing and appraising. You will perform on your instruments, compose pieces, and study music from a wide range of styles and periods. 60% of your mark is based on practical music-making (performing and composing) and 40% is based on an exam taken in the summer of Year 13.

How will you learn?

As well as rigorous academic study of a variety of set works, much of the course is practical. You can expect to play an instrument or sing in many of your lessons. Much of your work will be independent; learning about music through performance, listening and reading. You will work in collaboration with teachers, classmates and other musicians in order to develop your understanding in this subject.

What makes a good musician?

This qualification requires a range of different skills; creativity, an eye for detail, and the ability to understand how music relates to other disciplines, such as history or social studies. As well as at least a 'B' grade at GCSE Music, you will need to be able to perform at around Grade 5 level (or equivalent, depending on your instrument).

What subjects complement music, and where will it take you?

Music is often paired with Maths, Languages or English. As a performing arts subject it complements a qualification in Drama, yet many musicians with a more logical, methodical approach will pair it with a Science. Universities value an A level in Music across degree courses; it shows a student can handle open-ended, creative work as well as academic analysis, and has a disciplined approach to study. Musicians are found in all industries, and follow a huge range of career paths.

Above all, study Music because you love it. Study it to pursue your passion.