

Subject: Music

Level: A Level



Course Outline

A level music is a challenging, exciting and rewarding course for those wishing to gain a detailed understanding of how music works, and what it means to study music academically.

What will I learn on this course?

Performance is an important part of all music courses and the A level is no different. In music you will be expected to prepare a recital that is designed to show off all of the skills you have developed for your instrument or voice. The programme should be varied, and you will be expected to show an understanding of the music that you perform, with evidence that you have understood the style, the use of the instrument and have listened to a range of interpretations to help create a stylish and convincing performance.

You will be expected to compose music in a much more musical way. This will involve using a brief to consider carefully the style that you will compose in and the combination of instruments that you will use, as well as the purpose of the composition. Your composition will be one that should use techniques found in the music of others, and will show your ability to compose appropriately for the occasion that you choose, but also for the instruments that you have decided to use.

The course will involve you studying the harmonisation of chorale tunes in the style of JS Bach. This will help you to develop a full and detailed understanding of tonality and the basics of functional harmony (an approach that forms the basis of most music to this day).

You will also study a series of set works that cover some of the most important areas of musical styles over the last 500 years. You will learn about how different styles have developed through time, and how individual works fit into the canon of Western music.