



# MUSIC

**Qualification:** A-Level

---

## **Overview of subject:**

A level Music is exciting and rewarding, unique in its combination of academic study and creative opportunity.

The course is based around developing three key skills; performing, composing and listening, and appraising. You build on your knowledge of musical theory, gain a solid understanding of the basic principles of performance, refine your practical skills, study and practice composition, and expand your knowledge of music history through listening and appraisal.

Within these areas of study, A level Music offers you the opportunity to develop your ability to use musical devices and conventions through composition, engage with and increase awareness and appreciation of the diverse heritage of music, and develop critical evaluation skills through appraising your own and other's music.

## **The course might be of interest to you:**

If you have a love of music, both performing and composing, curiosity about different genres of music and are self-motivated, hard-working and determined then this could be the course for you. With A level Music you'll be able to go on to study music at either Universities or Conservatories.

Music also helps to develop a wide range of transferable skills such as critical thinking, self-reflection, motivation and communication, so would be a valuable study option for those wishing to carry on with their musical interests in other routes.

The course entry requirement is at least a Grade 5 in GCSE Music, if taken, and at least Grade 6 ABRSM on any instrument. Students need to have a secure understanding of Music Theory (grade 5 standard). It would also be beneficial to continue with music tuition on your chosen performance instrument to help support performance grades.



# MUSIC

**Qualification:** A-Level

---

## **Areas of study:**

During the course you will study topics such as the Western Classical Tradition, Into the 20th Century and Musical Theatre with the option to create compositions based on any of the other Areas of Study available on the course, including Rock and Pop (1960-2000) and Jazz (1920-1960).

## **Assessment:**

You will complete three components of work, with submission of coursework and the written paper taking place at the end of A2 (See Unit content above in Areas of Study). You will be assessed on your analysis and understanding of music, theory knowledge and application, practical musicianship, composition skills.

### **Option A: Performing (35%) Composition (25 %)**

A performance consisting of a minimum of three pieces. One must be as a soloist, while the others can be soloist or ensemble. Two of the pieces need to reflect the characteristics of different areas of study.

Two compositions, one must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a set brief. The second composition is a free composition.

### **Option B: Performing (25%) Composition (35%)**

For Option B you will perform a minimum of two pieces. One must be as a soloist, while the other can be soloist or ensemble. One piece must reflect the characteristics of an area of study.

You will also compose three pieces. One must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a set brief. The second must reflect the musical characteristics of a different area of study while the third is a free composition.