

Overview

The A Level Music qualification offers exciting opportunities for the study of music through both practical and academic disciplines. The three core elements of performance, composition and developing musical understanding are taught and assessed across the two years. The course not only provides a structured way of achieving proficiency in the three basic skills but also allows the students to pursue their individual specialisms.

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 5+ in Music

More information:
Mr H Santer

Curriculum and assessment

As described above, there are 3 core components of the course:

PERFORMING

students will develop their skills in both solo and ensemble performing. There are many opportunities for students to take part in extra curricular activities. Students may run ensembles such as orchestras, bands and choirs if this is of interest.

COMPOSING

Students will produce two compositions – one to a brief set by the exam board and also a free composition. Students will also learn the basic principles of harmony.

APPRAISING

This unit of the course allows students to develop their knowledge of music theory and the socio historic context of works chosen by AQA. In doing so, links will be made with the styles of music we listen to today.

ASSESSMENT

Coursework is 60% of the course and is assessed through an 10 minute performance on the students chosen instrument/s, and 2 compositions lasting a minimum of 4½ minutes. The remaining 40% of the course is assessed via a 2½ hour exam in the summer term of Year 13.

Post 18 opportunities

The music courses provide an excellent basis for lifelong learning and for Higher Educations in Music, and many students continue to study Music at university. Studies in Music can lead to Performance, Composition, Musicology, Ethnomusicology, Sound Engineering, Conducting, Popular Music and Jazz, Artist Management and Public Relations, Music Therapy and Music Education.

Destinations of students in recent years:

Birmingham University – Music

Nottingham University – Music

University of Gloucester – Creative Music Technology

Expenses

Students need to purchase scores of the set works. AS/A Level music student conferences.