



# A Level Music

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**Exam Board:** AQA

## Overview of the course:

If you have been studying Music up until now you will have realised that it is an intriguing and multi-faceted subject, in which you will have started to gain real expertise. The A Level Music course offers you the chance to develop that expertise in a wide range of exciting and challenging activities and studies. It will enable you to deepen your understanding of key aspects of Music, and to see more clearly the fascinating connections between the disciplines of composing, performing and listening.

Students who study Music at A Level take a leading role in the lively extra-curricular programme offered by the College. They will take part in many exciting concerts at College and in the community, and develop their performing expertise with the ensemble directors.

## What will you study?

The thread running through the course is your development as a musician through performing, composing, listening and analysing music.

## Assessment

### Component 1: Appraising Music 40 %

During this unit you will listen to and explore a wide range of music whilst greatly developing your aural and analytical skills. There are seven possible areas of study (listed below). Area of study 1: Western Classical Music is compulsory and then two further areas of study are chosen from the remaining options to suit the cohort's musical interests:

- Western Classical Music 1650 – 1910
- Pop Music
- Music for Media
- Music for Theatre
- Jazz
- Contemporary Traditional Music
- Art Music since 1910

**Assessment:** a listening and written exam based on both familiar and unfamiliar music.

### Component 2: Performance 35 %

During the course you will continue to develop your performance skills on your chosen instrument

or voice. As well as focusing on technique there is also an emphasis on musical interpretation and you will explore the expressive choices available to you as a performer. Students may choose which genre and musical style they would like to focus on.

**Assessment:** a 10 minute recital as a soloist or a member of an ensemble.

### Component 3: Composition 25 %

During the course you will develop a range of composition techniques and skills. You will explore how the other composers combine and construct musical ideas and experiment composing music for yourself and others to perform and record. You will also become familiar with using music software such as *Sibelius* and *Reason* and can compose in any style or genre.

**Assessment:** two compositions, one of which is completely free choice and another one based on choice of briefs set by AQA.

## Possible career path?

- The combined course prepares students for all the challenges of a Music degree at university or music college.
- The A Level course can lead to other areas of Music study, such as Music Therapy and Arts administration.
- For those not wishing to continue Music into Higher Education, the course will enhance your enjoyment and understanding of Music.
- A Music qualification shows that you are a well organised and highly motivated student who can take the initiative and can work well with others. It can, therefore, help you in applying for jobs or courses for which these are desirable characteristics.
- You will be developing leisure skills which will be of benefit to you throughout your life.

## Entry requirements

Five GCSEs Grade 9-5, including English and Mathematics **and** a Grade 6 in Music.

If Music GCSE has not been studied but you have gained musical skills by other means please ask the Music Department staff for advice.