Overview of the course:

This is a vocational course, which offers a broad basis of study for the music sector with a focus on performance, developing instrumental technique, music theory and professional practice. There are some mandatory units, covering basic musicianship skills, such as rehearsal and performance skills, music theory and harmony and planning a career in music. In addition to these mandatory units, students may choose from a selection of extension units which could include:

- Solo performance
- Composing music & lyrics
- Improvisation
- Studio recording & mixing
- ... and many others

Students who study RSL Music will take part in many exciting concerts and events at the College and in the community, and develop their experience with the ensemble leaders.

What will you study?

With the emphasis on practical music making, this course will appeal to students who wish to develop their playing and singing skills, their musical understanding, theoretical musical knowledge, leadership and networking skills and learn about how music fits in to society and cultures around the world. A knowledge and understanding of how the music industry works will be an important feature of the course and it should appeal to students with a wide range of musical interests.

The course delivery is largely practical in nature and makes full use of the Music department facilities. There are dedicated practice huts, performance rooms with PA, two recording studios and teaching rooms with a computer suite and relevant software.

Assessment

Parts of the course are externally assessed. The remainder of the course is assessed by the teacher and then verified by the awarding body. The results of assessment for all of the units are aggregated and students are awarded a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.

Possible career path?

- This course will prepare you for higher education or employment.
- It will provide an introduction to the study of the music sector, and give you the underpinning knowledge and skills needed to meet industry requirements.
- This course develops the transferable and higher order skills so highly recorded by HE and employers.
- 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 5 or above in Music, or a Merit or above in Level 2 BTEC First Award in Music or Level 2 RSL 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.

Special Requirements:

This course is offered as one block of study, and is equivalent to one and a half A Levels. You will be following a performance pathway. Other pathways in composition, technology and business are available and can be discussed with the Head of Music.