

Why study A level Music?

Aims of the course

Skills: You will develop performance skills (solo and ensemble), compose music and learn about harmony. You will also build up your aural and analytical skills by studying set works from a Music Anthology and wider listening.

Outcome: The full GCE A Level course is excellent preparation for higher education courses in music, but is equally valuable for no-specialists as second or third area of study.

Our overall aim is to provide a stimulating approach to further developing your performing, composing and listening skills, which will prepare you for further musical study in higher education.

The new Linear A level is separated into three components.

Component 1: Performing.

This unit gives you the opportunity to perform as a soloist and/or as part of an ensemble. You can choose any style of music, and any instrument(s) or voice(s) are acceptable as part of an 8 minute assessed performance at the end of your course.

Component 2: Composing.

In this unit you will develop your composition skills, learning about melody, rhythm and harmony to create your own compositions. You will learn how to use Sibelius notation software to create scores and have opportunities for your music to be performed.

By the end of the course you will have composed two pieces of approximately 3 minutes in length – one to a brief set by the exam board, the other a composition of your own choosing.

Component 3: Appraising.

This component is assessed by a two hour written exam.

In this unit you will develop your knowledge and understanding of musical elements, context and language through the study and analysis of set works, and through aural appraisal. You will study a wide selection of works including vocal music, instrumental music, music for film, popular music and jazz, musical fusion and new directions, as well as developing your listening skills. A full list of the set work can be found below.

How do we perform?

In 2017 we achieved 100% A* to C

List of set works for Component 3.

Vocal Music:	Bach. Cantata Ein feste Burg Mozart. The Magic Flute Vaughan Williams. On Wenlock Edge
Instrumental Music:	Vivaldi. Concerto in D Minor Clara Schumann. Piano trio in G Minor Berlioz Symphonie Fantastique
Music for Film:	Danny Elfman. Batman returns Rachel Portman. The Duchess Bernard Hermann. Psycho
Popular Music and Jazz:	The Beatles. Revolver Kate Bush. Hounds of Love. Courtney Pine. Back in the Day
Fusions:	Debussy. Estampes Familia Valera Miranda. Cana Quema Anoushka Shankar. Breathing under water
New Directions:	Cage. Three dances for prepared piano Kaija Saariaho. Petals for Violoncello and electronics Stravinsky. The Rite of Spring