

# Music A Level



Exam Board: OCR

## Why A Level Music?

Music is a powerful gift that can change our lives in a variety of ways. In listening, performing and composing, music can portray emotions that words cannot, instantly effect our mood and enhance our understanding of the world. It grants an opportunity to express ourselves. Music is part of our daily life as well as a key focus within our communities and schools.

## What will you study?

Students will engage with the diverse and dynamic heritage of music, extend their skills in performing and composing and develop a deeper understanding of the need to communicate music through their own choice and to a set brief. Students will study a range of set works that vary from Jazz to the Instrumental work for Haydn, Beethoven and Mozart, Programme Music to 20<sup>th</sup> Century music.

We also focus on performance and composition, two key strands to being a musician. You will develop not only your performance skills but also your abilities to perform in front of others. You will compose music and develop your understanding of musical theory and harmony.

## Possible careers:

**Directly related:** Musician, teacher, music therapist, composer, media, publishing, sound production and arts administration.

**Further afield:** Community arts worker, event organiser and agent in the music industry.

## Thinking and Life Skills you will develop:

- Powers of memory, physical dexterity and concentration – developed in practice and performance
- Communication skills – developed through performing and engaging listeners
- Teamwork – through working in bands or ensembles as a player, leader or manager
- Self-management – physical and mental self-discipline achieved through regular practice
- Performing under pressure – overcoming nervousness in order to perform well during exams, concerts and auditions
- Planning – organising and working towards a project/ performance
- Technical skills – using technology to create and record music
- Critical reflection – giving and receiving constructive criticism, learning from mistakes and striving for improved performance.

## University degrees that require or often prefer Music include:

Music, Music Technology, Music Therapy, Performing Arts, Teaching, Arts Administration, Commercial Music, Journalism, Marketing, Media

## Entry requirements:

Minimum grade 6 in GCSE Music or a Merit or Distinction in BTEC Music.

Grade 5 on an instrument/vocals/theory is preferred.



*'Music is a world within itself, with a language we all understand.'*

Stevie Wonder