

MUSIC

A LEVEL

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This course encompasses the three core elements of performance, composition and historical studies through both practical and academic disciplines. The first year will be an opportunity for students to develop and consolidate their performance, composition, musical theory and appraisal skills.

You must be proficient on at least one instrument (or voice) and it is expected that you will continue to have lessons on your main instrument outside of College. A firm grasp of conventional musical notation (treble and bass clefs), key signatures (up to four sharps/flats) is also required, and some ability on the piano is highly desirable. Your final Performance Recital is assessed formally in the 2nd Year by an external examiner. The minimum standard required is around Grade 6 for A Level.

Composition, assessed through a coursework portfolio, involves studying both stylistic musical techniques in a Traditional Western Classical style and original writing. Year two offers insights into a range of 20th century compositional techniques. A clear understanding of the principles of musical notation and analysis is essential. Historical studies units have a written examination at the end of each year, and involve the study of the western classical tradition and a non-classical genre (Popular Music 1960-2000). There is also a listening/Music Theory written exam.

WHAT NEXT?

Students have continued their studies in the subject at institutions such as the University of Surrey, Bristol University, Bath Spa University, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and Royal Northern College of Music.

Students may consider direct entry into employment or further training.

ASSESSMENT

Listening/Written Exam (40%) Practical work (60%)

DURATION

2 years

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Standard entry requirements - GCSE grade 5 English and Maths, plus grade 5 in GCSE Music or grade 5 theory. Grade 6 standard performance level. Music theory test at interview.

EXAM BOARD

Eduqas/WJEC

COSTS

£40 for textbooks and concert visits.