



Why Study Music?

“Music makes a kind of liquid link between the study of languages, literature and the other arts, history and the sciences – joining them together in the outer world of feelings and relationships and the inner world of the imagination.” Dr Robin Holloway (composer)

This course will equip students with the fundamental skills required to progress to advanced musicianship. Students will develop their skills as performers and composers, as well as learning how to analyse music from a variety of styles. Music links all of humankind and is a form of communication that transcends words. Due to the dedication, perseverance and commitment involved in learning to play an instrument or sing, as well as the higher level thinking skills involved in understanding and analysing music, A Level Music is held in high esteem by universities and employers. This qualification can open doors to careers in or out of the music industry, including performing, teaching, song writing/composing, media, conducting, music technology / sound engineering, production, musical theatre and music journalism. Many Music graduates go on to highly successful careers in various corners of commerce and industry.



Course Content and Assessment

We follow the AQA specification. The A Level course is comprised of three units:

- **Performing (35%)** – A recital lasting a minimum of 10 minutes
- **Composing (25%)** – Two compositions (1 free piece and 1 to a set brief set by AQA) lasting a minimum of 4.5 minutes in total
- **Appraising (40%)** – Study of 6 areas of study, each with 3 set works. This will be a written exam.

Progression Routes

This course will provide an essential basis for anyone wishing to study Music at university or music college / conservatoire. It is a preferred qualification for music technology, sound engineering/recording and broadcasting routes. It is also essential for those wanting to teach Music in any form. Music is highly valued by many institutions and employers because of the emphasis it places on development of skills, analysis and listening.

Entry Requirements

In order to cope with the demands of the course, students should have gained at least grade 5 in Music at GCSE or will have studied Music Theory to around Grade 5 standard. It is essential that all students taking this course can perform on voice/instrument to ABRSM Grade 4 or equivalent.