MUSIC

"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent."

Victor Hugo

Current Teaching Staff:

Mrs Naomi Hagland – Head of Music

Examination board and syllabus:

AQA A-Level 7272

Entrance requirement: GCSE Grade 7 and grade 5 standard on any instrument/voice OR GCSE Grade 6 and Grade 6 on any instrument/voice. In exceptional circumstances it may be possible for advanced performers without GCSE, but with grade 5 theory, to join the course after interview

A level Music:

Component 1: Appraising music

What's Assessed: Listening, analysis and contextual understanding (AO3 and AO4).

Written Examination: 2 hours 30 minutes. Externally marked.

40% of A level (120 marks)

- Section A: Listening (56 marks). Three sets of questions on unfamiliar excerpts: one on Area of study 1 (Western classical tradition 1650–1910), including aural dictation, and two from a choice of Areas of study 2–7. Includes extended answers.
- Section B: Analysis (34 marks). Two sets of linked questions on set-work extracts from the two chosen strands of Area of study 1, with scores provided.
- Section C: Essay (30 marks). One essay on one of Areas of study 2–7, showing knowledge of three named artists/composers and at least two works.

Component 2: Performance

What's Assessed: Music performance (AO1), as a soloist and/or in an ensemble, as an instrumentalist or vocalist, and/or through music production via technology. A minimum of ten minutes in total is required (no maximum). Externally marked by AQA examiners.

35% of A level (50 marks):

Ambition of project (5)	Technical control (15)	Expressive control (15)	Performance quality (15)

Component 3: Composition

What's Assessed: Composition (AO2). Two compositions, externally marked by AQA examiners, with a combined minimum of four and a half minutes (no maximum). Each is recorded start to finish as a single final version, with the student's name and candidate number stated at the start.

25% of A level (50 marks)

Composition to a brief (25 marks)	Free composition (25 marks)
One chosen from seven externally set briefs, released around 15 September. Brief 1 is chorales; others may use text, images, film or notation.	Free choice: need not refer to areas of study or a brief.

This qualification is linear: all exams and non-exam assessment are completed at the end of the course, in the same series.

Lessons take place in the Music department, where we are equipped with 2 large teaching spaces (one Mac suite running Logic Pro X and other software as needed), as well as several practice rooms for one-to-one tuition or independent practice.

Students should be committed to the development of their chosen instrument/voice through daily practice and (in most cases) specialist, one-to-one tuition. Students should be passionate and open to exploring a wide range of musical styles and analysing their musical features critically.

CAREERS

There are many obvious careers in music in the areas of teaching and performing. However, other career opportunities can be found in such areas as journalism, events management, music therapy and work in the recording industry. Music is universally accepted by universities and colleges as a robust academic qualification and employers recognise the degree of motivation, self-discipline and cooperation with others that the subject requires.