



MUSIC

Entry Requirement: GCSE Music is an important gateway to this course. Students who did not take GCSE Music may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Examination Board: AQA 7272

This course is designed to provide clear progression from the interrelated skills developed at Key Stage 3 and GCSE: performing, composing, listening and appraising. It allows access for all musicians and provides opportunities to study a range of musical styles.

Course Content and Assessment

Examination (2 ½ hours)

Component 1: Appraising Music (40%)

- Listening: aural identification of key features based on three areas of study, including excerpts of unfamiliar music
- Analysis: identification and analysis of musical features from set works (Area of Study 1 Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910)
- Essay: one essay from one other Area of Study which includes discussion and analysis of pieces by named composers/ artists

Non-Examined Assessment

Component 2: Performing Music (35%)

- A 10-12 minute performance on any instrument/voice as soloist and/or as part of an ensemble
- Music can be in any style
- This must be completed between 1-31 March of the year of certification

Component 3: Composing (25%)

- Two compositions 4½ – 6 minutes in total
- Composition 1: to a set brief (released September of Year 13)
- Composition 2: free composition

All components are externally marked by AQA examiners.

Teaching and Learning Methods

- Students learn to evaluate and appraise their own and each others' work in all areas of the course
- Performance lessons are practically-based
- Other aspects of the course are approached through a variety of methods, many of which are practical and include performing, composing, listening, appraising and writing about music

Homework

- Regular practice is essential in preparation for the performing aspect of the course
- Written and practical exercises are set in order to further and extend learning
- Students will need to become familiar with set works through both listening and score study
- Students should also listen to a wide variety of music in order to become familiar with characteristics of style
- It is important that preparation for controlled assessment tasks is undertaken outside of lessons

Trips and Visits

- Students are involved in extra-curricular music ensembles and take part in performance opportunities both within and outside school
- Free tickets for professional concerts are available to students
- Workshop and conference opportunities are offered by the county music service

Key Features

- Exploration of a wide variety of musical styles
- Emphasis on a wide range of practical work
- Develop practical skills in music-making activities, including performing (solo/ensemble/improvising), composing and aural analysis
- A level Music is highly regarded by a very wide range of University courses within and beyond the arts. Previous students have studied subjects as diverse as law, economics, geography, engineering performer, and many take their music further as a performer, composer, conductor, teacher, music therapist, arts administrator, music journalist amongst others.