

Music

Awarding Body: Students follow the AQA Music AS and A2 courses.

Course Content and Examination Requirements:

All candidates follow a varied programme of composing, performing, listening and appraising music through three units each academic year:

Year 12 AS Level Units	Year 13 A2 Units leading to a full Advanced GCE
<p>Unit 1: <u>Influences on Music</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Candidates will be asked listening questions based on a range of extracts of music. ▪ They will undertake an in-depth study of a piece of music, currently Beethoven's <i>Symphony no 1 in C major</i>. ▪ Candidates will gain a comprehensive knowledge of a particular Area of Study, currently 'Music Theatre'. <p>Assessed by a 1hr 45 written examination in June (30% of total AS marks)</p>	<p>Unit 4: <u>Music in Context</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuing from Unit 1, Candidates will develop the skills needed to answer more structured listening questions. ▪ They will undertake an in-depth study of a piece of music, Shostakovich's <i>Symphony no 5</i>. ▪ Candidates will gain a comprehensive knowledge of a particular area of study, currently 'English Choral Music in the 20th Century' <p>Assessed by a 2hr 15 written examination in June (40% of total A2 marks)</p>
<p>Unit 2: <u>Composing: Creating Musical Ideas</u></p> <p>Candidates will complete various composition exercises throughout the course, culminating in a final piece of coursework based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A harmonisation of a 16 bar given melody ▪ Controlling texture: writing for more than one part <p>Coursework assessed (30% of total AS marks)</p>	<p>Unit 5: <u>Composing: Developing Musical Ideas</u></p> <p>Candidates will learn relevant compositional techniques throughout the course, and begin a final piece of coursework based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Harmonisation of a Bach Chorale melody ▪ Harmonisation of a String Quartet <p>Coursework assessed (30% of total A2 marks)</p>
<p>Unit 3: <u>Performing: Interpreting Musical Ideas</u></p> <p>Candidates will prepare a varied repertoire throughout the course, then select a programme for a solo and ensemble performance to last 10-15 minutes in total.</p> <p><u>This should be at Grade 5 standard or higher</u></p> <p>Assessed by a recorded performance (40% of total AS mark)</p>	<p>Unit 6: <u>Performing: A Musical Performance</u></p> <p>Candidates will spend the whole year developing their performing skills on their solo instrument, and prepare a varied programme to last 10-15 minutes.</p> <p><u>This should be at Grade 7 standard or higher</u></p> <p>Assessed by a recorded performance (30% of total A2 mark)</p>

Entrance Requirements:

A GCSE in music of Grade B or above would provide a firm basis for the course. Consideration will be given to students who have not taken GCSE music, but who have passed ABRSM theory grades 5 or above.

Candidates should also be at Grade 5 in a musical instrument, or working towards this.

Further information: Mrs L Dudley, Miss N McGarey