

Music

A Level

Head of Department:

Jenny Warburton

Exam Board: Pearson



What is the course about?

The music course is centred around creativity; performance, composition and appraisals are blended together towards a deeper understanding of the musical world. We study the full range of ways that music is used to communicate ideas and emotions over time and throughout the world. The course is about discovering and opening our minds to new musical genres.

Music aims to inspire the next generation of students in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills. Students will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

What will I study in the first year?

You will study set works from a variety of genres and periods of time. You will look at building on your performance skills and presentation towards a year 12 recital. You will investigate a range of musical styles towards your own compositions.

What will I study in the second year?

The second year consolidates this knowledge and further widens your knowledge, understanding and appreciation of music. You will work towards your final recital with mock performances and masterclasses. Your compositions will mature and be finalised, scored and recorded. You will continue to widen your listening skills through exciting new pieces and genres.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is 40% exam 30% Performance and 30% Compositions; written/recorded in the second year.

What skills will I develop in this course?

Music A level develops your musical mind and skills; sure. It also develops a wide range of transferrable personal skills and creativity as you will work in ensembles and with composers towards your own musical signature and style.

What does this subject offer for higher education and future careers?

This subject is far from being an easy option; universities recognise its value both as foundation for those that want to pursue music or performing arts further, or alongside an A level balance. Music is balance for the soul, both at A level and beyond.