

# MUSIC



A-Level music builds on the knowledge and skills attained at GCSE. The AQA syllabus naturally progresses from GCSE to A-level and is similar in many respects. Students explore their knowledge and understanding of music through Appraising, Composing and Performing.

## Course Outline

### A2 Outline

#### **UNIT 1: PERFORMING 30%**

- A public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital of 10 minutes.
- Performers can perform a solo, ensemble, improvisation or a realisation of music using music technology.

#### **UNIT 2: COMPOSING 30%**

- Two compositions, one set to a brief by the exam board, the other to a brief set by school.
- The compositions in total must be 4.5 minutes in duration.

#### **UNIT 3: APPRAISING 40%**

- Knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language. Application of knowledge through the study of three areas of study, and six set works.
- Areas of study include: Western Classical Music, Jazz, Musical Theatre, World, Film Music, Contemporary traditional music.

## Career Progression

Continued study at university or a music conservatoire. There are many possibilities of employment in the music industry; including:

- Arranger, producer, orchestrator, composer, film scorer/composer, jingle writer, songwriter, transcriber, copyist, conductor
- Booking agent, music publisher, artists' manager, music therapist.
- Vocal/instrumental soloist, session musician, orchestra/group member, backing vocalist, DJ.
- Music teacher.

## Entry requirements

- Pupils will need to be learning a musical instrument, and will be at least Grade 4/5 standard to guarantee success in the recital. Pupils will need to attain a level 6 to access A-Level Music.
- Whilst this is a very broad and well-rounded course, pupils will need to have a real interest in all types of music, particularly in delving deeper into music analysis and theory.
- An ability to read music is essential.

**Course Contact:** Miss Sharp–Head of Music  
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*What our Students say:*

*Music is what emotions sound like. I loved every minute of it and studying it alongside physics was truly fascinating!*

*Ciara – Class of 2017*