



MUSIC

A-LEVEL MUSIC

This specification allows **all** students, including those who are interested in contemporary styles and music technology, to explore music to a higher level post GCSE.

Students' strengths in areas such as composition, performance and understanding can be exploited.



This specification in music will allow students to build on their experiences at GCSE and offer a foundation for the study of Music beyond the Sixth Form. It is designed to enable students to recognise the interdependence of musical skills, knowledge and understanding, and the links between the activities of performing/realising, composing and appraising.



A-LEVEL COMPONENTS

Component 1: Appraising Music

There are three parts to this Unit:

1. Listening: developing the skills learned at GCSE
2. Analysis of unseen music (based on AoS 1)
3. Contextual understanding (based on other chosen AoS)

All questions and material is drawn from the following areas of study:

AoS1 — Western Classical tradition

AoS2 — Pop music

AoS3 — Music for media

AoS4 — Music for theatre

AoS5 — Jazz

AoS6 — Contemporary traditional music

AoS7 — Art music since 1910

AoS 1 is compulsory; two further AoS chosen, as appropriate to strengths and interests.

Terminal exam of two and half hours.

Component 2: Performance

Solo and/or ensemble performing as instrumentalist and/or vocalist and/or music production.

Minimum of total time of all recordings: 10 minutes.

Submitted to AQA by May of U6 year; externally assessed.

Component 3: Composition

A portfolio of 2 compositions:

1. Composing to a brief issued by AQA (based on the AoS, above)
2. Free composition.

Minimum of total time of portfolio: 4 and half minutes

Submitted to AQA by May of U6 year; externally assessed.

AS-LEVEL

NB: AS-level music is a stand-alone qualification. Its format is similar to the above A-level specification, although smaller in content and detail. The AS-level is designed to be co-teachable with A-level music.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS IN MUSIC



2024 A-level results 50% A* to C

2024 GCSE Results 100% grades 9—6

2023 Graded Examinations

84 Graded Examinations taken, seven at grade eight with 12 Distinctions and 36 Merits gained.



Music Tours and Trips

During the year the Department runs concert trips, a recording studio trip and offsite performance trips to locations such as Fountains Abbey and Durham Cathedral. Previous music tours have been to Slovenia and Scotland.



Students who have taken music have gone on to:

- study music at Oxford University
- study music as a choral scholar at King's College, Cambridge
- study at Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts
- study vocal performance at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London
- study composition at Cardiff University



“..I have loved my time here and all the music is the main reason for that...”

“..the music department has been like a second home for me , with scarcely any days I have not been involved in some sort of performance or rehearsal...”



“...When I look back on my time at the school, the main thing I will remember fondly is all the music groups and music lessons I took...”