

What is the course about?

A Level Music will provide a contemporary, accessible and creative education in music with an integrated approach to the three main elements – performing, composing, and appraising.

Learners are encouraged to be creative and to broaden their musical horizons and understanding with areas of study that inspire and challenge. This specification will enable learners to explore performance and composition in greater detail and allow them to choose a specialism in performance or composition. Through the various genres, styles, and eras contained in our areas of study they will explore musical context, musical language, and performance and composition skills.

A Level Music has options and pathways designed to appeal to, and cater for, a wide range of interests, instruments, personalities and directions.

Course content

Recital minimum of six minutes and two contrasting pieces. Choice of:

- Solo piece(s) on one or more instruments or voice
- Ensemble performance (including accompanying)
- Realisation using music technology

Compositions with a combined duration of at least eight minutes:

- One to a brief set by OCR
- One to a brief written by the learner
- Three short technical exercises

Listening and appraising

- Analysing and evaluating music
- Familiar and unfamiliar pieces
- Prescribed works
- Questions based on aural extracts

Assessment

Recital and compositions are marked internally.

One listening exam that is marked externally.

Career pathways

Music-related: Study all music related degree courses at high education.

Employment opportunities: Sound technician, community musician, music therapist, teacher, or work in film, television, theatre, radio, arts administration, or creative education.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five grade 5 to 9 grades at GCSE including at least a grade 6 in Music.