

## AS Level and A Level Music



**Entry Requirements:** GCSE grade 6 in Music GCSE and/or Grade 5 Theory and Grade 5 in an instrument. **In addition, an E Grade in AS Music is needed to progress to the A Level.** **Exam Board:** AQA **Teachers:** Mrs E Soulsby; Mrs G Page

- **Timetable Organisation:** 5 periods per week across 2 teachers. Booklets are distributed for each unit/component, along with “top tips for success in music”, marking criteria and key dates for the year. Homework tasks are recorded through the “Show My Homework” website.

### **Main Syllabus Area**

The course is designed to encourage students to appreciate all styles and genres, skills and instruments, catering for different learning styles and musical tastes.

### **Skills Workshops in: -**

- **Performing:** Performing music across a wide range of genres as a soloist and/or ensemble; technical aspects; musicality (through Dalcroze)
- **Composition:** Melody, harmony, texture, tonality, timbre and instrumentation, structure
- **Listening:** Singing, Kodaly approach, analysis, history of music
- **Essay writing:** Analysis, content, structure
- **ICT:** use of Sibelius and/or Cubase software
- **Research:** As part of the programme of study, students must research and learn from investigations into the work of other composers.

**The AQA AS level specification** has three components:

- **COMPONENT 1: Appraising Music: 40% of marks:** An exam comprising of three sections: - Listening 49 marks; Analysis 17 marks; Essay 30 marks.
- **COMPONENT 2: Performance: 30% of marks at AS.** Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist and/or vocalist and/or music production 50 marks. 6 – 8 minutes worth of music in total.
- **COMPONENT 3: Composition: 30% of marks at AS.** Composition 1: Composition to a brief 25 marks and Composition 2: Free composition 25 marks. 4 ½ - 6 minutes worth of music in total.

**The AQA A Level specification** has three components:

- **COMPONENT 1: Appraising Music: 40% of marks:** An exam comprising of three sections: - Listening 56 marks; Analysis 34 marks; Essay 30 marks.
- **COMPONENT 2: Performance: 35% of marks at A level.** Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist and/or vocalist and/or music production 50 marks. 10 – 12 minutes worth of music in total.
- **COMPONENT 3: Composition: 25% of marks at A level.** Composition 1: Composition to a brief 25 marks and Composition 2: Free composition 25 marks. 4 ½ - 6 minutes worth of music in total.

**So why study music at Tapton?** Music is part of the fabric of the school and over 150 musicians take part in our weekly ensembles. We have proven exam success and we work hard to deliver a rigorous learning experience and ensure you achieve your best. We have a huge number of ensembles you can join and our students regularly progress to studying music performance, music production and music composition at top conservatoires and universities.

### Method of Assessment

- Throughout the course students will take part in **peer-group** and **self-assessment** in order to familiarise themselves with the **Assessment Objectives**, and become more objective in their skills of critique.
- Staff **review** work with students on a **one-to-one** basis regularly, giving **support**, feedback, and set **targets** for **improvement** and **progression**.
- All units are **externally assessed** at the end of the course.

### Qualities Required

You are **enthusiastic**, **open-minded** and willing to **learn** new **skills** and **techniques**. You are **inquisitive** and enjoy **listening to music** from all **eras and genres**. You enjoy working as part of a **group**, but can work **independently**. You are **determined** and will work to ensure you **succeed**. You understand the need for resilience and **have high aspirations**.

### Links with other subjects

Music involves many **transferable skills**, not least problem solving, communicating ideas and concepts, discipline and self-motivation, team work, developing creative audio ideas and realising those ideas.

### Career Prospects

Music is a language and the skills you learn through studying music are relevant to all careers. Universities value and recognise that musical training has huge benefits for achieving success in other subjects. Music offers many areas of employment and is continually growing and changing, from Performing, Sound Production or Music Engineering, to Musical Theatre, Music in Advertising and Composing for Film, TV and Game, as well as arranging.

### Extension and Enrichment Opportunities

Supporting learning in **Lower School Music Classes**. Performing within one of the many **ensembles**, such as **Senior Orchestra, Jazz Band, Brass Band, Wind Band, String Groups, Staff/Student Choir, Rock Groups** and **Flute Choir**. There may also be other Enrichment Opportunities, such as performing in Musical Productions, either as an actor, singer or as part of the Band, working with visiting musicians, community days, and the A Level Performance Weekend at Thornbridge Lodge. **Follow the sound - there's always live music taking place in the department!**

### **Co-teachability**

The AS course is designed to be co-teachable with the first year of the A level course, so students in any given Year 12 class may be studying for the full AS OR the first year of the A level qualification.