

# AS/A2 MUSIC

## Entry requirements:

GCSE Music grade B. Performance approximately grade 6 or 7 by the end of the course.

## Examination board:

EDEXCEL

## Teachers:

E Northin, R McEwan, J Bellfield

## Timetable organisation

The course is taught by all members of the Music Department who cover the syllabus in 5 lessons per week, delivering their particular specialisms. Lessons cover a mixture of theoretical and practical tasks and every effort is made to engage, challenge and support all students. Students complete AS before moving onto A2.

## Main Syllabus areas

The course will demand performing, composing, listening and analytical skills in almost equal measure. You will improve your skills in performing and composing in a range of styles. You will listen to a wide variety of music and develop a more informed appreciation of how and why it was written and/or performed.

**AS:** in the first year the course comprises:

**Unit 1:** *Solo Performing* – 1 or 2 solo pieces and *Performing During The Course* – a minimum of four performances, one of which must be a composition.

**Unit 2:** *Developing Musical Ideas* – a folio of composition techniques exercises and one composition.

**Unit 3:** *Listening and Understanding* – a 45 minute listening paper and a written exam based around 2 chosen areas of study.

**A2:** in the second year the course comprises:

**Unit 4:** Specialist options – either 2 compositions or a 20 minute recital.

**Unit 5:** Performing and Arranging – a minimum of 4 performances (solo and ensemble) and an extended composition techniques exercise.

## Main Syllabus area (cont..)

**Unit 6:** Analysing Music – a 45 minute listening paper and a written paper on areas of study taken from an anthology of music.

## Method of assessment

A combination of internally and externally assessed coursework (60%) with a listening test and written paper both in AS and A2.

## Qualities required

Enthusiasm for performance, an interest in varied musical styles, a desire to develop performing, composing and analysing skills in greater depth.

## Links with other subjects

Music complements other arts based subjects very well and also provides contrast with science based subjects, particularly at AS. Music helps to build confidence and self-esteem and develops teamwork and communicative skills, all vital to effective Post 16 study.

## Career prospects

Graduates in music work in areas such as performance, teaching, composing/arranging, arts administration, journalism, music therapy, librarianship, broadcasting and publishing. Music A Level is essential for those students intending to study the subject at Higher Education level or as part of a Creative and Performing Arts course. It is also a good choice if you have completed the GCSE course, have a deep interest in music and require a complementary subject.

## Extension and enrichment opportunities

Performance opportunities both within school and in the wider community; a wide selection of ensembles; workshops with Music in the Round; Music College/University trips.