



MUSIC

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

A Level Music is an enlightening subject which can develop your individual creative intelligence alongside your academic ability to explore analytical methods, perfect performance techniques and enhance your general musicianship. Music is a widely respected discipline and offers students an opportunity to expand their study skills in a variety of ways.

The course provides students with three clear areas for development. Within the A Level course you will be required to complete a composition portfolio of two pieces (one free composition and one to a set brief), whilst developing an understanding of four-part harmony. The second area incorporates the submission of a performance portfolio of between eight and ten minutes (six to ten minutes for AS Level) on your chosen instrument. This may take the form of solo work(s) or ensemble performances and must be recorded as one continuous performance in front of a small or large audience (you choose). The third area of study encompasses analysing and investigating music from a very broad historical range.

WHY STUDY MUSIC?

Whether you are looking to read music at university or study music A Level as an additional subject, the course has been structured to facilitate and promote learning at all levels. Many previous students have decided to pursue a career/degree in music at Britain's most revered institutions. Equally students following alternative career paths have found the high aspirations of the music A Level beneficial to their University applications.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Different musical ideas are translated to help students with their performance skills and assistance is given in developing an individual's composition style. Students also look at music from the past, analysing the harmony, melody and other musical features. The learning taking place secures a good balance between written tasks (analysis and essays) and practical composition and performance components.

Additionally students can be supported by external specialist teachers. St Bart's is the Newbury Music Centre for Berkshire Maestros who can offer instrumental tuition where requested. A Level study workshops and appropriate educational visits are also organised to support classroom learning.

I have thoroughly enjoyed improving my composition skills, finding new and exciting ways to communicate my musical ideas. *Adam*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

The AS or A Level music course is externally assessed/moderated and weighted according to the different areas submitted. Performing (30%), composing (30%) and the written examination paper (40%).

This is a new linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13. AS Levels will still exist and can be taken as a stand-alone qualification at the end of Year 12, but students taking this option and then continuing to study the subject in Year 13 would have to sit all the A Level units as linear exams to gain that qualification.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Studying music degree courses at Britain's most prestigious institutions or facilitating entrance to other undergraduate courses. Music A Level has also enabled students to lead careers in music performance, composing, musicology, music promotion, journalism, teaching, conducting, (the list is endless). Equally students who have opted to study music A Level for the love of their art and not as a career have enjoyed the wider benefits of the subject.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Music GCSE is not a requirement, but where students have completed the GCSE course, a B grade or higher is preferred. It is essential to be able to play a musical instrument or sing for the performing aspect of the course. Additional music exams are also beneficial but not essential. Please speak to a member of the music staff if you are unsure about any of these areas.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Music History 101](#)
- [Music Theory](#)
- [Naxos – History of Classical Music](#)
- [Nick Redfern](#)

