

Music

Music is a diverse subject and the AS and A level courses reflect this in their variety. Sixth Form music students can expect to be allowed to study music as a practical, creative and intellectual subject and will be able to specialise in performing or composing. The areas of study recognise the diverse cultural age we live in and cover music from classical, jazz, popular and world genres. Each area of study is seen within a broad cultural and historical context, and students gain in-depth experience of specific musical elements, resources, procedures, qualities and repertoire.

Sixth Form music students benefit from full access to the excellent facilities available in the Music School.

The course is set out as follows:

- AS Unit 1: **Performing Music** (level: grade 5/6 or higher) – an assessed 5-6 minute solo and/or ensemble performance – any style, any instrument(s) or voice.
- Unit 2: **Composing** – one three-minute composition in response to a brief, along with a CD sleeve-note.
- Unit 3: **Developing Musical Understanding** – the study of set works, identifying important musical features and their context; also the study of harmony and tonal features.
- A2 Unit 4: **Extended Performance** – a 12-15 minute assessed solo and/or ensemble performance – any style, any instrument(s) or voice.
- Unit 5: **Composition and Technical Study** – *either* two three-minute compositions, *or* two technical harmony studies, *or* one composition and one technical study.
- Unit 6: **Further Musical Understanding** – further study of set works, plus questions about unfamiliar music.

In a competitive world a creative arts qualification is invaluable; students with Music A level will be just as likely to move on into any arts-related career as they are likely to move into a musical one. Past students have gone on to degree courses not only in music, but also in wide variety of arts and technology subjects.

This course is suitable for all students who have a keen interest in many kinds of music, and are proficient in an instrument (see unit 1 above). It is desirable to have studied music at GCSE. Each individual brings different skills to the course – you should speak to Mr Rushby if you are unsure whether this course would be suitable for you or not.