

## POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

### Post 16 Subject Overview

**Name of Subject** - A Level Music

### Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course?

WJEC Eduqas Level 3 Advanced GCE in Music (601/8146/1)

### Why should I study this course?

A Level Music continues from the work you have completed in GCSE Music. You will be assessed in Performing, Composing and Appraising. This course enables you to specialise in Performance or Composition and the choice of studying either Rock and Pop, Jazz or Musical Theatre for Appraisal exam.

The UK music industry helps drive economic growth by creating jobs and opportunities for young people. In 2018, the UK music industry supported more than 190,935 full-time jobs in the UK, of which 89,800 are singers, musicians and composers/ songwriters. The music industry contributed £4.5 billion to the UK economy, which is an increase from 2017 of 12%.

As an A Level Music student, you will be expected to take an active role in the Music Department and this will include supporting ensembles and concerts. A Level students will have enhanced access to facilities including practice rooms and the recording studio, as necessary to support their studies. Where possible, we will also endeavour to undertake educational visits to concerts and appropriate venues to enhance the experience of Music at this advanced level.

### Who is suitable to study this course?

If you are passionate about Music and want to develop your knowledge and ability to a much higher level, then Music is for you. As with GCSE so are expected to Perform, Compose and Appraise Music so A Level Music students need to be 'all-rounders'. You must have completed GCSE Music **or** have significant performing and theory experience to undertake A Level Music. A Level Music will fit well as an option alongside Btec Level 3 Sound Engineering as Music and Music Technology are very much interlinked in the industry today.

Music can lead to many different opportunities and at University you can really specialise in many different areas, from Degrees in Rock Performing to Computer Game Music. You may even want to specialise in Music Psychology or Music Therapy.

Here are some of the many job opportunities you can explore in the music industry:

Of the 142,208 jobs in the music industry, there are a wide range of different roles that you can undertake. Just a small selection of careers include:

- Performer
- Musical Director
- Music Therapist
- Film Music Composer
- Teacher/Lecturer/Professor
- Instrumental Tutor
- Songwriter
- Session Musician
- Video Game Composer

### **What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course?**

GCSE Music and NCFE Music Technology

### **What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course?**

GCSE Music Grade 6 and Grade 4 standard on your instrument (you do not have to have completed the Grade 4 exam)

### **How is the Course Delivered? -**

You will be taught A level Music over 5 periods per week in G35 (A Level Mac Suite). Each lesson will focus on a different aspect of the course and although these will change throughout the year, here is an example weekly timetable for September of Y12:

Lesson 1 - Western Classical Tradition

Lesson 2 - Theory/Aural skills

Lesson 3 - Composition

Lesson 4 - Pop and Rock

Lesson 5 - Performance

In addition to this, you will still receive your free instrumental lesson with your teacher and these will be timetabled to accommodate our A Level subjects to avoid disruption wherever possible.

Google Classroom is used to share resources and to complete tasks, although in lessons you will make notes and complete listening tasks on paper. For composition you will continue to use Logic Pro X and also be introduced to Sibelius for notation based compositions. You will also be given access to EarMaster Pro which is aural training software that can be accessed from home and in school.

Music is very much a lifestyle and all A Level Music students will need to undertake regular practice on their primary instrument to meet the very high standards required for A Level performance.

<b>Subject Overview</b>		
<b>Half Term</b>	<b>Year 12</b>	<b>Year 13</b>
<b>Autumn 1</b>	Music Theory and Elements of Music Introduction to the 'Development of the Symphony' Studying the Classical Period Pop Music 1960s	Composition Set brief is released Twentieth Century Music - Impressionism, Expressionism, Serialism Planning and preparation for Set Brief Composition Final recital piece recording
<b>Autumn 2</b>	Recital piece 1 recording Studying the Romantic Period Pop Music 1970s Area of Study B listening tests	Full recital performance to the class Creating Set Brief composition Twentieth Century Music - Neoclassicism and Nationalism
<b>Spring 1</b>	Pop Music 1980s Start free choice composition preparation Recital piece 1 to a live audience	Recital performance to a live audience Finalising Set Brief composition Analysis of set work - Debussy

<b>Spring 2</b>	Pop Music 1990s Free choice composition underway Analysing Setwork - Haydn Development of the Symphony essay skills	Both compositions - Final submission (Between March and May) - Recital performance to an external examiner Analysis of set work - Poulenc
<b>Summer 1</b>	Recital pieces 1 and 2 recording Grade 5 Theory test Analysing Setwork - Haydn Submit free choice composition for formal assessment	Final exam preparations and revision Mock exam
<b>Summer 2</b>	Mock Appraising Exam Analysing Setwork - Haydn Recital performance to a live audience	Final Appraising Exam

### How is the Course Assessed?

You can opt for the Performance (Option A) or Composition pathway (Option B). All coursework is externally assessed and performance exams are conducted by a visiting examiner.

#### Option A

Performance – 10 to 12 minutes – 35% of the qualification

Composition – 4 to 6 minute – 25% of the qualification

#### Option B

Performance – 6 to 8 minutes – 25% of the qualification

Composition – 8 to 10 minute – 35% of the qualification

The Appraising exam is 2 hours and 15 minutes and consists of different style questions, from multiple choice to short and extended writing tasks. There is one essay and students will also be tested on their dictation and aural awareness.

The requirements of the qualification will mean that students develop transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by higher education and employers. For example, creativity, communication skills, team working, and an opportunity to focus on their personal vocal/ instrumental technique. This qualification has a strong focus on performance and creativity, these are key skills for progression to higher education

Throughout the 2 year course you will undertake regular performance assessments as well as public performances based on the Music Department's concert schedule. Listening skills are developed and practised throughout the course with formal assessments which inform Praising Stars grades.

### **What is our Recommended Subject Reading list to Support your Study?**

Students are not expected to purchase any specific books before starting this course, however there are many excellent books available to support students, here are a few examples:

AB Guide to Music Theory (Parts 1 and 2)  
Eduqas AS and A Level Music Study Guide (Rhinegold)

Developing your musical experience is also very important so listening to a wide range of music will support your studies. We recommend taking time to listen to Classic FM and a range of music podcasts.