



Music

Awarding Body	Edexcel	Specification Code	9(MU0)
Purpose of the course	Edexcel A Level in Music will encourage learners to: • Engage actively in the process of music study • Develop performing skills to demonstrate an understanding of musical elements, style, sense of continuity, interpretation and expression • Develop composing skills to demonstrate the manipulation of musical ideas and the use of musical devices and conventions • Broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity • Develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds • Reflect critically and make personal judgements on their own and others' music • Engage with, and extend appreciation of, the diverse heritage of music in order to promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural development • Recognise the interdependence of musical knowledge, understanding and skills, and make links between the integrated activities of performing, composing and appraising underpinned by attentive listening • Develop and extend the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to communicate effectively as musicians • Develop knowledge and understanding of a variety of instruments and styles, and of relevant approaches to both performing and composing • Develop awareness of music technologies and their use in the creation and presentation of music		
Entry requirements	GCSE Music Grade 5 or above or ABRSM Grade 5 theory - merit or above. Performance skills of Grade 5 practical or above on an instrument or voice.		
Type of qualification	A Level.		
Course contents	Component 1: Performing Non-examined assessment: externally assessed 30% of the qualification 60 marks Content overview • A public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital. • Performance can be playing or singing solo, in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music using music technology. • The total performance time across all pieces must be a minimum of eight minutes. • Performances must be recorded after 1 March in the year of certification and all materials for assessment submitted to arrive by 15 May in the year of certification. Component 2: Composing Non-examined assessment: externally assessed 30% of the qualification 60 marks Content overview • Total of two compositions, one to a brief set by Pearson and one either free composition or also to a brief. • One composition must be from either a list of briefs related to the areas of study, or a free composition, carrying 40 marks for this component. This composition must be at least four minutes in duration.		

	• One composition must be from a list of briefs assessing compositional technique, carrying 20 marks for this component. This composition must be at least one minute in duration, unless the brief specifies a longer minimum duration. • Total time across both submissions must be a minimum of six minutes. Pearson Component 3: Appraising Written examination: 2 hours 10 minutes 40% of the qualification 100 marks Content overview • Knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language. • Application of knowledge through the context of six areas of study, each with two set works, with the exception of Popular Music and Jazz, which has three set works. o Vocal Music, o Instrumental Music, o Music for Film, o Popular Music and Jazz, o Fusions, o New Directions, • One written paper of 2 hours 10 minutes, with a total of 100 marks. • Audio files with the extracts to accompany questions on the paper will be provided to each student. • This paper comprises two sections: A and B. Section A: Areas of study and dictation (50 marks) • Three questions related to the set works (audio and skeleton score provided). • One short melody/rhythm completion exercise. Section B: Extended written response • Two essay questions – essay one (20 marks) and essay two (30 marks) • Essay one asks students to draw links from their study of the set works to the music heard as an unfamiliar extract. • Essay two gives a choice of four questions that ask students to evaluate the musical elements, context and language of one set work. Each option will be from a different area of study.
Assessment method	Component 1: Performing Music (30%) Non-exam assessment (coursework). Solo and/or ensemble performing. Total duration must be at least 8 minutes. Recommended minimum of Grade 6 difficulty. Component 2: Composing (30%) Non-exam assessment (coursework). Two compositions totaling at least 6 minutes. One free choice or to an Edexcel brief, plus one technical/style brief Component 3: Appraising (40%) Written examination (2 hours 10 minutes) at the end of Year 13.
Further studies	Higher Education & Degrees A Level Music is highly respected and provides an excellent foundation for various degree courses.
Subject Lead	Mrs K Metcalfe , Director of Music