



## Music A Level

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**Awarding Body: AQA**

### **Requirements**

Students studying Music in the Sixth Form are expected to play a full part in the life of the School and department. The life of the department is very full and rewarding indeed, and Sixth Formers have the opportunity to take the lead in some ensembles.

As well as the academic requirements for entry to the Sixth Form, we advise that students pass at least ABRSM Grade 5 (or equivalent) on their first instrument prior to beginning study.

### **Structure of the course**

#### **Year 12**

*Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910*

- Baroque: the solo concerto
- Classical: the operas of Mozart
- Romantic: the piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg

*Contemporary Traditional Music*

- Astor Piazzolla
- Toumani Diabaté
- Anoushka Shankar
- Mariza
- Bellowhead

*Performance*

- Opportunities for solo performances throughout the year
- Students are expected to have individual tuition across the two years on their first study instrument and any other instruments they wish to present for examination in Year 13

*Composition*

- A suite of exercises in both stylistic and free composition across the year
- Opportunities to have compositions performed at School and external events

#### **Year 13**

*Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910* revising and extending Year 12

*Contemporary Traditional Music* revising and extending Year 12

### *Art Music since 1910*

- Dmitri Shostakovich
- Olivier Messiaen
- Steve Reich
- James MacMillan

### *Performance*

- As in Year 12, culminating in a final recital in March (see 'Examination requirements' below)

### *Composition*

- Free composition
- Composition to a brief (released by AQA in September)

## **Examination requirements**

### **Appraising music (40%)**

The examination paper consists of listening, analysis and essay questions. Questions will be on set works and unseen extracts from the Areas of Study:

- Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910
- Contemporary Traditional Music
- Art Music since 1910

### **Performance (35%)**

Students perform a recital between ten and twelve minutes in length; it can consist of solo or ensemble music on one or more instruments. It will be recorded during March in the year of examination.

As well as an armoury of technical skills, A-level candidates will need to develop a secure knowledge of stylistic issues in their chosen repertoire.

### **Composition (25%)**

During Year 12, students will undertake a variety of non-examined compositional tasks which will expand their musical vocabulary. In Year 13, each student will write two compositions: one free composition and one composition to a brief released by AQA in the September before the year of examination. The total length of the music must be between four-and-a-half and six minutes. The deadline for submission will be during April in the year of examination.