

RMGS

MUSIC

A LEVEL

What are the aims of the course?

To extend students' knowledge, skills and understanding of Music through practical performance, composition, and analysis of a wide variety of styles.

What does it involve?

The course is split into three key areas:

- Performing – as a soloist, in an ensemble, or both
- Composing –to a brief set by OCR, with the option of a second, learner-defined, brief.
- Listening and Appraising – a listening exam based on set works studied during the course and also general listening questions. The course will cover music from the Baroque period up to the present day, including both classical and pop / jazz styles.

How is it assessed?

All students have to perform and compose as part of the A Level. However, they are able to pick one to have a heavier mark weighting depending on their strengths and weaknesses. This decision will be made in conjunction with their Music teachers.

- **Performing** is assessed through a Recital performance, which is recorded and moderated by the exam board. The minimum length expected is 6 minutes, with 10 minutes required for those selecting the heavier weighting.
- **Composing** briefs are set by OCR. Students will learn how to create, develop, and extend their ideas and will explore different compositional styles and techniques. Those choosing to have the higher weighting on composition will submit a second composition and also three short technical exercises.
- **Listening and Appraising** will require students to analyze and appraise familiar and unfamiliar music. There are set works and styles, as well as related listening. It is examined as a written exam including aural extracts.

Are there any specific entry requirements?

Students need at least grade 4 (ABRSM, Trinity or Guildhall) on their instrument and / or voice and equivalent theory skills at the start of the course. Students need to be confident reading traditional musical notation in both bass and treble clefs.

Students must have at least a B grade in Music GCSE.

A commitment to school extra-curricular music activities is compulsory.

Why is it a useful qualification?

The course develops the all-round musician to broaden experience and foster creativity; encouraging lifelong learning and providing access to music-related careers. Music is both a practical and a highly academic subject, and proves to prospective universities and employers a wide range of transferrable skills. Furthermore it provides a firm foundation for students wishing to study any aspect of Music at university.