

AS MUSIC

- Music follows the Edexcel syllabus.
- It is useful to have taken music at GCSE level, but this is not essential as long as you can already play a musical instrument to approximately grade 4 standard and are able to read music.
- The course requires performing, composing, listening and analytical skills. You will improve your skills in performing and composing in a range of styles. You will listen to a wide variety of music and develop a more informed appreciation of how and why it was written and/or performed.
- The AS qualification consists of the following three units:

Unit 1: Performing (30% AS 15% A2)

- In this unit you will develop your skills as a musical performer. You can perform on any musical instruments or you can sing. You can choose to perform music in any style.
- You will perform one of two solo pieces of your choice, with or without accompaniment, lasting between five and six minutes. Your teacher assesses this unit through a recording of your solo performance.

Unit 2: Composing (30% AS 15% A2)

- In this unit you will develop your composition skills, leading to the creation of a final 3-minute piece in response to a chosen brief. You will also write a CD sleeve note to describe aspects of your final composition and explain how other pieces have influenced it.

Unit 3: Developing Musical Understanding (40% AS 20% A2)

- This unit focuses in listening to familiar music and understanding how it works. You will study set works from the anthology, through listening and studying the scores. You will learn how to identify important musical features and to place the music in its social and historical context.
- You will also learn to analyse a score to identify the harmonic and tonal features and then apply this knowledge in the completion of a short simple passage for SATB.

A2 MUSIC

Unit 4: Extended Performance (30% A2 15% total)

- You will extend your performance skills as a soloist or part of an ensemble. You can perform on any instrument or you can sing. You will perform for 12-15 minutes and you can choose music in any style.

Unit 5: Composition and Technical study (30% A2 15% total)

- You will develop your compositional skills, leading to the creation of a final 3 minute piece in response to a chosen brief.
- You will also complete a technical study, building on the knowledge and awareness of harmony gained in unit 3.
- You must complete 2 tasks in this unit choosing from either one composition and one technical study or two compositions or two technical studies.

Unit 6: Further Musical Understanding (40% A2 20% total)

- In this unit you will listen to music, familiar and unfamiliar, understanding how it works. You will study set works from the anthology along with unfamiliar music which relates to two compulsory areas of study. You will learn how to compare and contrast pairs of excerpts, contextualise music and identify harmonic and tonal features.