

MUSIC

A level music allows pupils to develop a more sophisticated, in-depth knowledge and understanding of music through the three areas they have studied throughout their musical education: performing, composing and appraising (listening).

Pupils will study music from the Western Classical tradition, but with modules in more modern genres such as pop, rock, jazz and musical theatre if they wish.

Assessment is all external and consists of three units in each year.

Performing

Total duration of performances: 10-12 minutes

A performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. Performances should be Grade 6 standard or above.

Composing

Total duration of compositions: 3-6 minutes

Two compositions:

1. A piece of at least 1 minute duration which uses the techniques associated with the Western Classical Tradition, in response to a brief set by WJEC. This will involve writing Bach Chorales and string quartets.
2. A free composition of at least 2 minutes duration.

Appraising

Written examination based on two areas of study chosen from:-

Area of study A: The Western Classical Tradition (Part 1)

Area of study B: Rock and Pop 1965-1990

Area of study C: Musical Theatre, Porter, Rodgers, Schönberg and Lloyd Webber

Area of study D: Jazz 1940-1965

Area of study E: The Western Classical Tradition (Part 2)

Area of study F: Music of the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries



This course provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for musically talented pupils looking to further develop their skills in a creative yet structured and academically challenging way.

BTEC LEVEL 3 PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC

One of the main advantages of studying BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts or Music is the flexibility the course provides for individual pupils. Classes are generally very small in the sixth form, which allows excellent opportunities for personal skills development in a nurturing and supportive environment. Pupils select units from an extensive list in the specification to cater to their particular talents such as:

- Developing Musical Ensemble Skills
- Musical Theatre Performance
- Singing Techniques and Performance
- Developing Voice for the Actor
- Performing Arts Business
- Principles of Acting
- Applying Acting Styles
- Auditions for Actors
- Drama Improvisation
- Approaches to Directing for Theatre
- Dance Performance
- Choreographic Principles
- Developing Contemporary Dance Technique



Each of these units is worth 10 credits and awards will be based upon the amount of units completed.

- ⇒ 60 credits (can be completed over one or two years) - Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts (equivalent to 1 A level)
- ⇒ 90 credits (to be completed over two years) - 90 credit Diploma in Performing Arts (equivalent to 1 and a half A levels)
- ⇒ 120 credits (to be completed over two years) – Diploma in Performing Arts (equivalent to 2 A levels)

Assessment is through completion of a portfolio of work including video evidence of performances, written diaries, witness statements and personal evaluations. The portfolio is externally moderated and pupils are awarded a fail, pass, merit or distinction. As well as providing a good basis for progression onto further Performing Arts related courses in University, studying BTEC Performing Arts shows future employers in any job sector that pupils are creative, confident, disciplined and dedicated.