

Music A Level Curriculum



Years 12 and 13			
	Performing	Composing	Appraising
Content: What will students know	Students will improve their understanding of their own instrument/voice. They will understand how to control the techniques required for their instrument, and will improve their accuracy and fluency as a performer on that instrument. Through performing different repertoire, students will encounter new composers and different styles of music.	Students will know how to write for different ensembles of instruments. They will know how to use a variety of different music programs to create their music. They will understand how to compose to meet a brief. Through the study of compositional techniques, students will learn the rules and guidelines to compose within a specified genre of music.	The appraising element of the course is based on an anthology of set works, covering six different areas of study. Students will analyse these set works in detail, as well as wider listening beyond the anthology to place the pieces within their social and historical context.
Skills: What will students be able to do	Students will gain technical skills specific to their instrument/voice. Students will develop the skills required to perform with accuracy, fluency and technical control, as well as developing their musical communication skills. Students should take into account the effect of the purpose and intention of their piece of music when performing. They must also consider the effect of audience, time and place when they perform their pieces	Students will develop the technical and expressive skills required to create interesting melodies, harmonies and rhythms, to write well for different instruments, and to manipulate the musical elements to create a variety of different moods and styles within their music.	Students will be able to listen to both familiar and unfamiliar pieces of music, and identify key musical elements within the music. They should be able to do this aurally as well as through the use of musical scores. Students will be able to write concisely to compare and analyse pieces of music.
Other: Literacy/ Numeracy/ Ethos	Students will develop self-confidence through live performance in front of an audience, including staff and peers. They will also develop their musical literacy.	Most students will use some form of music technology in order to create and record their compositions. Students must have a strong understanding of musical notation to access and notate their compositional techniques paper.	Literacy - essay writing skills. Historical understanding of the context surrounding different composers.
Assessment:	Students will prepare for an 8 minute recital in the Spring of year 13. This recital can be as a solo performer, or as part of an ensemble. The recital will be performed to an audience, can be one or more pieces of music, and must be performed live and uninterrupted. A recording of the recital will be externally assessed and moderated.	Students will submit compositions totalling six minutes. This includes an original composition - either to an exam board brief, or in a style of their own choosing, as well as two technical exercises set by the exam board in the spring of year 13. Both aspects of the composition paper are externally marked and moderated.	This element of the course is assessed through a listening exam. During the exam, students will hear excerpts of music - some familiar and some unfamiliar, and will answer essay questions based on the music they hear.