

COURSE LEVEL 3 | A Level

WHAT IS MUSIC?

A Level Music enables you to extend your knowledge and understanding of music and builds on much of the GCSE qualification. Students must play an instrument or sing and will need to demonstrate technical, interpretative and communication skills through performing music. You won't necessarily have formal lessons, but PERFORMING IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE COURSE and instrumental lessons are highly advisable to access higher grades. You will also compose and develop your own musical ideas and study set musical works in detail and develop analysis skills that will enable you to access academic musical studies at degree level.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Music

You can follow a Composing Specialism route or a Performing Specialism route, depending upon where your strengths lie.

Composing Route – 8 minutes of composition on 2 different briefs plus 3 short technical exercises (35%) plus a 6 minute recital on 2 contrasting pieces (25%) plus a written exam (40%).

Performing route – 10 minute recital on 3 contrasting pieces (35%) plus 4 minutes of composition on 2 different briefs (25%) plus a written exam (40%).

The recitals and compositions will be assessed via audio-visual recording and audio/score. The written exam, where you must analyse and evaluate music, will include aural extracts and more extended written responses.

For the exam you will study “Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven” and “Popular Song: blues, jazz and big band” as well as choosing two further areas of study from topics such as Programme Music, Jazz, Innovations in Music, or Religious Music of the Baroque Period.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Music grade 6 or above (Grade 5 Music Theory desirable if no GCSE Music), plus a Performing Standard of Grade 5 and above on any instrument or voice. The A Level is well suited to students who already have lessons on an instrument or are considering doing so. It is often difficult (though not impossible) for students to access the A Level course without having taken GCSE Music or ABRSM Music Theory exams; if you are in doubt please talk to a member of the Music Department.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

A level Music provides a sound preparation for the study of music in higher education, as well as providing opportunities to develop strengths and interests leading to music related careers.

The A Level course prepares you well for either an academic degree at university, where you will be likely to study the history of music, analysis, composition, performance and aesthetic thinking in music. It will equally prepare you for entry to a specialist music college or academy through the performance and music theory elements of the course.

For further information please contact Mr T. Atkins
thomas.atkins@ashfield.notts.sch.uk

