



A Level Music: Upper Sixth

Curriculum Intent

In the Sixth Form, our musicians continue to develop and apply the musical knowledge, understanding and skills they gained at KS4. They are encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities. Through the three components - Appraising music, Performance and Composition – we aim for our students to explore and develop their own musical strengths and foster a love of music from all backgrounds. By the end of the Key Stage they should possess the skills and understanding needed to access higher education and university degree courses in music and music-related subjects, as well as music-related and other careers.

“Music has no fatherland; its homeland is the whole universe” Frederic Chopin

Students will learn:-

Term 1:

Component 1: Listening & Appraising (AO3/4)

Area of Study AoS1: Explore the piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg strand; AoS2: Pop Music; AoS3: Music for Media

Component 2: Performing (AO1)

Performances of 10 minutes of music

Component 3: Composing (AO2)

Composition 2: Free Composition

Composition 1: Composition to a Brief



What knowledge and skills will I learn?

AO1:

- Performance of repertoire - a minimum of 10 minutes of music; for production, a minimum of 10 minutes of music –all midi and audio recorded.
- Technical control assessment criteria:
Performance: accuracy of pitch, intonation, rhythm, quality of tone, breathing, diction, bowing, pedalling etc.
Production: accuracy of pitch, rhythm, articulation, phrasing, clarity of sound capture
- Expressive control assessment criteria:
Performance: tempo, dynamics, phrasing and articulation
Production: choice of timbres, dynamics, dynamic processing including compression and EQ
- Target setting

AO2:

- Completion of Free Composition
- Introduction of composition briefs and exploration of ideas

AO3 & 4:

- Analysis of Piano Music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg
- Practise of exam style questions.
- AoS3: Bernard Herrmann. Two pieces minimum for analysis.
- AoS3: Hans Zimmer. Two pieces minimum for analysis.
- Continued development of listening skills

Enhancing Home Learning:

- Links to wider listening, reading and viewing on department [Tumblr page](#)
- Spotify Playlists:
[AoS1](#) (Western Classical)
[AoS2](#) (Pop Music)
[AoS3](#) (Music for Media)
- Rhinegold AQA A-Level [Study](#) and [Revision](#) Guides
- Department A-Level Music Guide
- Zig Zag Education resources in Music Department

Term 2 & 3

Component 1: Listening & Appraising (AO3/4)

Area of Study AoS1: All three strands.

AoS2: Pop Music

AoS3: Music for Media

Component 2: Performing (AO1)

Performances of 10 minutes of music

Component 3: Composing (AO2)

Composition 1: Composition to a Brief



© Courtesy of Carmel Jane Photograph

International Opportunities

Visits Programmes

- Russian Exchange: **Moscow - Tretyakov Art Gallery, Moscow State Ballet**
- ROH, London: **Opera Visit**
- China: Shanghai **Acrobatic and shadow puppet show**
- Lesotho: **Malealea Sotho Sounds concert**

Diversity within the curriculum

- Black Curriculum includes: Stevie Wonder and the Motown Label, Beyonce and Labrinth
- Opportunities to study Jazz and Contemporary Traditional Music which includes music from Argentina, Mali, India, Portugal and the English folk tradition

AO1:

- Full performance of repertoire - a minimum of 10 minutes of music; for production, a minimum of 10 minutes of music –first completed mixes.
- Performance quality assessment criteria:
 - Performance:** musical style and communication
 - Production:** style, balance, blend, panning, use of effects
- Formal assessment using assessment criteria
- Target setting
- Recording of final performances and final mixes for production from 1st of March to internal deadline

AO2:

- Working on composition to a brief (Spring 1)
- Completion of composition to a brief (Spring 2)
- Final submissions of both compositions with attention to the score/written account/lead sheet (Summer 1)
- Programme notes and recordings for each composition

AO3 & 4:

- Complete analysis of Piano Music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg
- Revision of *The Marriage of Figaro* set work and practise of analysis questions + revision of Piano Music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg set works and practise of analysis questions
- Practise listening skills relating to all three AoS1 strands
- Practise exam technique of contextual analysis style questions.

How will students be assessed:-

Are able to perform a selection of music which is ambitious and has

- Excellent technical control
- Excellent expressive control
- Excellent musical style and communication

Are able to compose a piece of music which has:

- a sustained mastery of technical control
- a quality of contrasting ideas and development
- musical elements used with flair and imagination
- convincing style
- the music communicated fluently on paper (AO2)

Are able to use appraising skills to:

- listen attentively to unfamiliar music from each of the Areas of Study to identify and accurately describe musical elements and use musical language (including staff notation) (AO2/3)

AM School:

The AM School runs from 8.40-9.10 before school and during tutor period Monday to Thursday. This will give students a unique opportunity to develop their ensemble skills and work with students from across the key stages, allowing senior students to develop arts leadership skills within the group, which could lead to the Arts Award.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Concert Band	Ukelele	Advanced ensemble (all instruments)	Music Technology
Whole School Choir	Band	Advanced Choir	Woodwind/Brass ensemble.
	Guitar Ensemble		

