

MUSIC

A LEVEL



WHY STUDY MUSIC A LEVEL?

A Level Music is a highly regarded, academic subject which is unique in its opportunity for development of a broad range of skills to a high level. These include practical skills, with ample opportunity to develop on your instrument and gain experience performing; creativity, with students learning to compose and successfully realise their musical ideas; and academic skills, with students learning how to analyse musical scores and recordings, expressing their ideas in academic writing. As such, the course is looked upon favourably by many universities.

The course is aimed at those who have a serious interest in music and well-developed instrumental skills. It involves written, theory and aural work, as well as composing and performing. The course includes the study of American Popular Song and jazz up to the present day, studying a broad range of artists from Ella Fitzgerald through to John Coltrane and beyond, alongside a study of the music of the western classical tradition, analysing artists as diverse as Bach, Beethoven and Berlioz.

A Level Music is highly demanding in the range of skills as well as the breadth of content and level of expertise it requires. 60% of the evaluation is coursework (composing and performing) with the remaining 40% being allocated to a listening examination where aural perception, stylistic recognition, technical understanding and historical development are tested. This includes short, technical answers, longer analytical responses and full essay answers which give the opportunity for a fuller exploration of the repertoire you have studied.

An ability to read both treble and bass clef fluently is essential for the study of scores. Grade 5 theory is an ideal preparation for this course.



WHY STUDY MUSIC AT WORCESTER SIXTH FORM COLLEGE?

The course is taught by a young, working musician, who has worked as a guitarist and composer on various projects throughout the UK and the US in the fields of jazz, contemporary classical music and improvised music, amongst others. As such, students have the opportunity to study with a young teacher who is continually engaged with the music industry and the act of music making alongside teaching.

All A Level Music students will be given access to our dedicated suite of practice and rehearsal rooms, each of which houses a piano and various college instruments. The music department also contains a computer suite with Cubase and Sibelius installed on each computer for music production and composition tasks, alongside a full recording studio, with a control room, live room, isolated vocal booth and high-end recording equipment. Our excellent range of instruments includes a Steinway grand piano, a harpsichord and a fortepiano (a copy of the type played by Mozart and Haydn) giving students a real insight into how the development of instruments affected the development of the music written for them and vice versa.

We welcome guest performers and encourage students to take part in enrichment activities such as the jazz ensemble, vocal groups and chamber ensembles, the annual College production (band/on stage) as well as our May 'Springfest' showcase concert.

Students studying Music (or Music Technology) will be offered subsidised individual tuition on an instrument of their choosing or in music theory, allowing students to take their theory grades up to grade 8 alongside their A Level studies.



PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

Music is a highly regarded academic subject which enables students to progress to further study at degree level both in Music itself but also in a wide range of other subjects. Recently, students have gone on to conservatoires such as the Welsh College of Music and Drama (Cardiff), as well as universities such as Goldsmith's College (London), Keele, Bradford, Oxford Brookes and more.



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