

AS/A2 Level Music (EdExcel)

Teachers: Mrs Tidball, Mr Walton & Instrumental Teachers

Aims of the course

1. To develop confident performing skills, both as a soloist and in an ensemble
2. To develop individual composition skills
3. To develop the use of harmony in compositions
4. To develop listening skills in a variety of styles and contexts
5. To apply analytical skills in a variety of styles and contexts

Lessons

Students study prescribed pieces from an aural, analytical and compositional perspective. The course is delivered in 6 lessons per week, with certain lessons being devoted to different aspects of the course. Students are expected to contribute to discussions, keeping detailed notes which will form the basis of your revision. There are 2 lessons every term in which students are required to perform to the class.

Homework

As more than a third of this course is devoted to performance, students are expected to participate fully in the music enrichment activities offered by the music department and also to practise regularly. Alongside this, there are regular homework assignments, theory and aural exercises along with research and short essays. Concert trips are also organised but students are encouraged to develop their knowledge and experience of music by attending as many live musical performances as possible

Assessment Structure

AS

Unit 1: Performing

Students are required to perform a 5-6 minute assessed performance as a soloist and/or as part of an ensemble

Unit 2: Composing

Students are encouraged to develop their compositional technique leading to the creation of a 3-minute piece in response to a brief. Students also need to write sleeve notes to describe aspects of their composition and any works which have influenced it.

Unit 3: Developing Musical Understanding

This unit focuses on listening to works from the Anthology and understanding and describing how they work. Students are required to listen to and study scores in preparation for the exam and also to complete a short passage for SATB choir (using only manuscript paper)

A2

Unit 4: Specialist Options

Solo recital — 20 minutes on one or more instruments

Unit 5: Compositional Techniques and Composition

One of the techniques developed in Unit 2 will be assessed by completing a commissioned exercise in a 3-hour exam. Students will also submit a composition similar to AS level

Unit 5: Compositional Techniques and Composition

One of the techniques developed in Unit 2 will be assessed by completing a commissioned exercise in a 3-hour exam. Students will also submit a composition similar to AS level

Unit 6: Listening and Analysing

As with Unit 3 this will comprise a 1-hour listening paper and a 2-hour written paper based on one of the Areas of Study undertaken at AS level (this involves a much deeper level of knowledge) together with an additional area. The unit to be extended from AS level for 2008 will be on prescribed pieces.

Special Requirements/other information

Essential: Competence on an instrument (Grade 5 level)

Essential: Grade B at GCSE or equivalent

Desirable: Grade A at GCSE Music or Music Theory (Grade 5)

Desirable: If piano is your second instrument, it is worth brushing up your keyboard skills as these are immensely useful. We do not expect you to start the piano from scratch