Maelor Sixth



Music
WJEC A Level

Subject Leader: Mrs F Baglin

Introduction

Music can have an impact on people's lives at many levels and research shows that active participation in music activates all areas of the brain. In addition, taking A-level music can enhance applications for non-music university courses as it is valued for teaching self-discipline and self-motivation, resilience, performance, presentation and analytical skills.

By studying music at A Level, students have an opportunity to develop practical performing and composing skills as well as studying styles of music and putting these into context (appraising). A Level students will learn to understand and appreciate a wide range of musical styles. In addition to the compulsory work, students extend either performing or composing as a specialism in year 13. Current topics of study include: music of the western classical tradition, musical theatre and impressionism.

The Course

Year One

- Unit 1 - Performing. A Performance of 6 - 8 minutes
- Unit 2 - Composing. Two compositions of 1+ minutes written during the course, one reflecting a brief set by the board
- Unit 3 - Appraising (listening). Study of two areas of music

Year Two

- Unit 4 - Performing - 6-8 or 10-12 minutes
- Unit 5 - Composing - 2 or 3 pieces
- Unit 6 - Appraising (listening) - Extended work on the AS areas of study plus a third area of music

Assessment

AS - Year 12 (40% of full A Level qualification)

- Unit 1 - worth 12% of the A Level grade is externally assessed in the Spring term.
- Unit 2 - 12% is submitted to the board for assessment late in the Spring term.
- Unit 3 - written and listening examination taken in the summer of Year 12 worth 16% of the A Level grade.

A2 - Year 13 (60% of full A Level qualification)
Unit 4, 5 & 6 are collectively worth 60% of the final A Level grade.

- Unit 4 is externally assessed in the Spring term.
- Unit 5 is submitted to the board for assessment late in the Spring term.
- Unit 6, written and listening examination taken in the summer of Year 13

Entry Requirement

- GCSE grade C/4 in Music, with a B/6 in appraising
  or
- A pass in grade 5 theory and practical as well as a higher-grade GCSE that demonstrates extended writing skills (typically English or History)
- • A Merit in BTEC Level 2 Music or Music Performance
- Grade 5 theory is useful to all A Level pupils and there are opportunities to study for and sit this exam in school.
- At least grade C/4 in English and Maths

Further Information

Students are actively encouraged to attend live music performances in the local area over the duration of the course. Students must be active musicians and participate in the extra-curricular musical life of the school, local, county, regional and national ensembles. Making music can help a young person maintain good mental health during a time of high pressure and anxiety, whether this is through A level study, studying and instrument or participating in extracurricular music groups.



Links to Future Careers

In addition to self-expression, studies show that Music can help to develop all areas of the brain, cognition, fine motor skills and analytical abilities. Music is valued by universities for students studying a range of musical and non-musical subjects.

A Level Music helps students to think differently using imagination and creativity particularly in the fields of:

- Teaching
- Performing
- Theatre work
- Sound editing and design
- Media production

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