

MUSIC

WJEC A LEVEL

Music can have an impact on people's lives at many levels. By studying music at A Level, you have an opportunity to develop your practical performing and composing skills as well as studying particular styles of music and putting these into context (appraising). Through A Level you will learn to understand and appreciate a wide range of musical styles, including some you may not have been used to singing or playing. At A Level, in addition to the compulsory work, you extend either performing or composing as a specialism.

The Course Involves:

Year One:

- **Performing** - A Performance of 6-8 minutes
- **Composing** - 2 Compositions written during the course, one reflecting a brief set by the board
- **Appraising (listening)** - Study of two areas of music

Year Two:

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

Assessment

- **Performing** - Externally Assessed in the spring term
- **Composing** - Submitted to the board for assessment late in the spring term
- **Appraising** - Written and Listening Exam

Particular Subjects, Skills or Interests

It is important to be an active musician at this level of study, all A Level students are expected to participate in the extra-curricular musical life of

the school, local, county, regional and national ensembles. You must have achieved a grade C/4 in GCSE 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). Grade 5 theory is useful to all A Level pupil and there are opportunities to study for and sit this exam in school. Other routes to study A Level Music are acceptable by agreement.

Study Visits/Fieldwork

There are a number of concerts in the local area over the course of a year. You are encouraged to go to as many as possible. We also organise concert visits when possible during the school year.

Post-18 Opportunities

Whether you intend to study music or have another study and career path in mind, an A Level in music is valued by universities and employers. Studying Music demonstrates an ability to work independently and to refine and develop skill to a high level. There are diverse careers in the music industry and music is also valued in other fields such as teaching. Many people who study music at school go on to non-music based professions, continue music as a hobby and in some cases start a musical career later in life.

Subject Leader: Mrs F Baglin

Subject Champions

2021/22



Natasha Allcock

Studying: Welsh Baccalaureate, Music, Government & Politics, Psychology and English Literature.

Future aspirations: to study creative writing at university & continue with music grades.

Tom Lynch

Studying: Welsh Baccalaureate, Biology, Music and Physics.

Future aspirations: to study bio medical science at university.

"The music department has lots of good resources and equipment I can use at A Level. These help me to extend my specialist knowledge. Music activities outside the lessons let me enjoy the social side of music and at the same time improving my skills."