



MUSIC

A Level

Course Outline

The course requires the development of four skills: Performance; Composition; Listening and Historical Knowledge. You will study a wide range of set works based on instrumental and vocal music in the genres of classical, pop and music theatre and develop your knowledge of theory and harmony. You will need to develop your analytical skills too. You will complete an instrumental/vocal composition and will record a short recital to be sent to an examiner at the end of the course.



Useful skills and experience

You will need to demonstrate practical skills of at least Grade Six standard by the end of the course. You should be prepared to work independently in composition, with guidance from music staff. You do not need to have done composition before but you must be prepared to learn the musical theory and harmony required and be able to read music notation on starting the course. You are advised to have lessons on an instrument or voice.



Assessment

You will be actively involved in individual and group work and in class discussion relevant to the listening and historical papers. You will also be expected to be involved in one or more of the extra-curricular music groups. Assessment will involve 60% coursework made up of performance and composition and 40% examination, through listening and appraising questions of both familiar and unfamiliar pieces of music.



Where could this subject take me?

As a member of the Music department you will be actively involved in concerts, both in and out of school, helping to enhance your performance and teamwork skills.

With regard to further education or work opportunities, universities and employers recognise that musicians demonstrate a high degree of self-discipline, dedication, time management and commitment, as well as a wide range of academic and social skills. It is considered one of the most employable subjects due to the ranges of skills that are covered.

Careers may include becoming a performer, composer, editor, teacher, music therapist, concert manager, administrator, conductor to name but a few.



Exam Boards and Specification



Entry Notes

Grade 4 in GCSE Music, if studied. Instrumental standard equivalent to Grade 6. A solo performance on application will be arranged for any students who do not have a grade 6 or above certificate to check performance level. By the time the course begins, theory skills equivalent to Grade 5 are essential. If no grade 5 has been attained a compulsory grade 5 enrichment course will have to be taken as part of the year 12 course. All applications will be considered on an individual basis.



Complementary Subjects

• Art • Drama • English • Media



Related Additional Activities

Performances at the Eisteddfod and other venues on the island. Trips to local performances, including live screenings. Year 12 music/drama trip to London to watch performances related to the course.



What our students say

I love music, learning about different periods and styles of music, whilst then being given the freedom to write my own for coursework was exactly what I wanted.

