



### What will Year 12 students learn and how many lessons will they have each week?

The beginning of the course will initially build on the content learnt at GCSE, and students will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts. You will develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and will reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities. Students will learn compositional techniques from a range of backgrounds and be given opportunities to develop their own creative voice. Students' progress as performers will be tracked and assessed throughout the course. Students will receive 4 hours of Music lessons a week.

### What will Year 12 students need to do to get the most out of their lessons?

Students need to have a genuine interest in performing music, composing music and appraising music from a wide range of backgrounds. Students will need to show dedication to personal development in musical performance skill. Students should have a sound understanding of music theory and western musical notation to be able to fully access the content of the course. Students will need to be able to listen analytically and discuss music from within styles and genres they are familiar and comfortable with, as well as styles that are more unusual or outside of their range of current experiences.

### How much homework will Year 12 students have in this subject?

Students should expect to complete two hours of homework a week. Homework may take the form of developing practical work, or may involve reading content about set works, or analysing unfamiliar extracts of music in relation to their context and musical elements. Written homework may be evaluative or analytical. It is important to keep on top of homework as you will be set homework by both of your teachers for different elements of the course.

### Which careers can this subject lead to?

Singers and musicians are the most visible careers in the UK music industry, but there is an array of job opportunities for those with talent, tenacity and drive. You could carve out a career in performing, song writing, composing, live music entertainment, music education, music production, artist management, marketing and PR or music journalism.

Year-on-year the sector continues to grow. It employs nearly 200,000 people according to the Creative Industries Council.

### Which other subjects complement this subject?

Music pairs really well with other creative subjects such as Art, Art Textiles, Drama, Music Technology, Product Design, and Media Studies. In terms of subjects that support the writing skills taught in Music, English Literature suits very well in addition to History and Psychology. These subjects have extended essay writing, and learning to analyse literature, having an understanding of key time periods, and understanding how the realities of these contexts influence the individual will contribute to a broader understanding of Music.

### Can students choose their own pieces for performance?

Yes, although there are some key considerations when it comes to selecting performance pieces for recital. The standard difficulty level expected at Year 13 is ABRSM Grade 7, but there is no constraint on the background, style or context of the music. Pieces will be selected for preparation in conjunction with the student over the two year course, taking into account the student's interests and ability.

### What do students need to compose?

Edexcel require two compositions to be completed across the duration of the course. One of these is the "free" composition, where students are given the opportunity to develop their own compositional style based on a framework of existing compositional technique, either from their own experiences, or in relation to a given brief. The second is the "brief assessing technique", where students will learn how to compose either a Chorale in the style of J. S. Bach, a two-part counterpoint, or an arrangement/remix taking into account skills in Music Technology.

### What could students who have taken A Level Music go on to do?

After Sixth Form, the obvious degree pathway would be Music, which could lead to a career as a musician, or other options such as a sound technician, music therapist, teacher or private tutor, or a range of careers in the music industry, in a concert hall or a music venue. Music would also complement subjects in the arts/creative industries such as work in film, TV, theatre, radio, arts admin or creative education. Professions such as Medicine, Law and Accounting highly regard Music as an academic subject which could complement your other studies in leading to a professional career.