



AS/A2 MUSIC

Head of Department - Mr C. Sears

EXAMINATION BOARD AND SPECIFICATION

EDEXCEL: Advanced Subsidiary (AS)
Advanced GCE (A2)

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students should be approximately grade 4-5 standard or higher on any instrument and have a reasonable grounding in music theory.

GCSE Grade A is the normal minimum requirement. In certain circumstances it may be possible for advanced instrumentalists without GCSE to join the course after interview with Head of Department.

THE COURSE

The aim of the AS specification followed in Year 12 is to provide students with a broad, balanced and inter-related course of study covering a wide academic and practical understanding of the subject.

In particular, students will:

1. Extend the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to communicate through music. They will be encouraged to participate in a wide range of musical activities, both inside and outside of school.
2. Engage in and extend their knowledge and appreciation of the diverse and dynamic heritage of music.
3. Be encouraged to develop particular strengths and study in greater depth those aspects of the subject which particularly appeal to them.
4. Use music technology where appropriate.

The aim of the A2 specification followed in Year 13 is to extend students' knowledge, skills and understanding developed in Year 12 and provide a basis for further study.

The areas of study to be covered during the course can be placed under the following general headings:

1. interpreting musical ideas through performing
2. understanding established musical techniques through the study of music by composers of the past
3. creating and developing musical ideas through composition
4. developing an analytical and historical understanding of music through the study of set works and topics
5. improving skills in aural perception

These areas will be incorporated into a six unit structure. AS Units 1-3 will be studied in Year 12 and A2 Units 4-6 in Year 13.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be carried out internally and externally through a combination of coursework and examination as follows:

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| Unit 1: | Performing
15% internal assessment |
| Unit 2: | Composing
15% external assessment |
| Unit 3: | Developing Musical Understanding
20% external assessment |
| Unit 4: | Extended Performance
15% external assessment |
| Unit 5: | Composition and Technical Study
15% internal assessment |
| Unit 6: | Further Musical Understanding
20% external assessment |