

IB MUSIC

Contact Person - Mr C. Sears

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students should be approximately ABRSM 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.

Core Content:

Musical perception and analysis paper, involving study of a set work and critical analysis of unprepared excerpts; musical investigation, for Higher Level also solo performance and composition.

Option Topics:

Higher Level: None

Standard Level: One of solo performance or composition or group performance.

Internal Assessment:

Higher Level = 50%

- Solo performance 25%
- Composition 25%

Standard Level = 50% on solo performance, composition or group performance

External Assessment:

Higher Level 50% Standard Level 30%

Examination

- Paper 1: Prescribed work analysis and study of genre and style

20% Musical investigation comparing two genres (maximum 1500 words)

Comparison between this course and A Level

- IB music involves the study of two longer set works in detail rather than several shorter set works.
- IB music involves writing critical responses on music which has not previously been specifically prepared or studied by the candidate. A Level asks similar answer questions on unprepared extracts within the context of the aural perception papers but from a prescribed area of study.
- IB music does not contain a specific curriculum content, which A Level does, although it makes it clear in the scheme of assessment what is required in the listening paper. It requires some knowledge of written music from 1500 to present day, and also non-Western music from around the world.
- IB requires a 2000 word investigation of significant musical links between two or more pieces from distinct musical cultures.

