MUSIC

WHY CHOOSE MUSIC?

The specifications provide a worthwhile, satisfying and complete course of study which broadens experience, develops imagination, fosters creativity and promotes personal and social development.

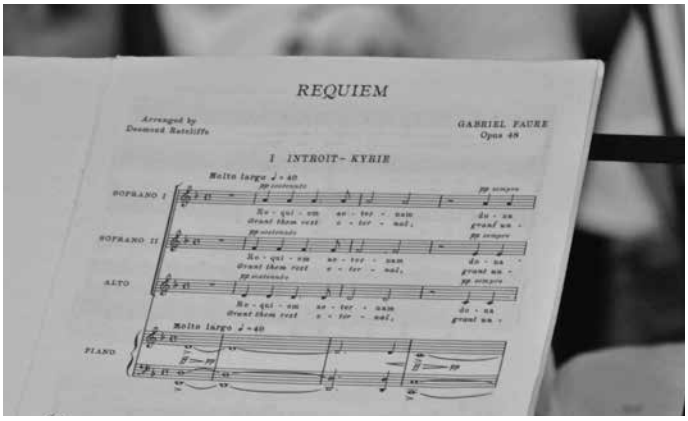
COURSE DETAILS

In particular, the AS and A Level in music encourages candidates to:

- Extend the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to communicate through music.
- To take part in music-making.
- Engage in and extend appreciation of the diverse heritage of music, promoting their spiritual and cultural development.

The WJEC Eduqas GCE AS in Music includes the usual three components of performing, composing and understanding music by asking candidates to a) perform a minimum of 2 pieces of music at Grade 5 standard lasting from 6 to 8 minutes (30%), b) compose 2 pieces in total from 4 ½ to 7 minutes, at least one of which must be based on the Western Classical Tradition (30%) and c) take a 90 minute listening and writing examination (40%) based on (i) The Western Classical Tradition (studying the first two movements of Haydn's London Symphony, or Mendelsohn's Italian Symphony) and (ii) Musical Theatre or Jazz (to be decided).

For the WJEC Eduqas music A Level candidates can choose if their performing will comprise 25% or 35% of the course by performing at Grade 6 standard to a visiting examiner either 2 (6-8 minutes) or 3 (10-12 minutes) pieces of music. The composing will then comprise a further 25% (2 compositions, 4-6 minutes) or 35% (3 compositions 8-10 minutes). The listening and writing examination (2 ¼ hours) remains at 40% and includes (i) The Western Classical Tradition (all of both symphonies mentioned above), (ii) Musical Theatre or Jazz and (iii) Twentieth Century Music (Poulenc and Debussy) or Twenty-first Century Music (Adès and Beamish).



FURTHER INFORMATION

The Music A Level course is enhanced by many co curricular activities. For instance two main highlights of the school year are the productions, where many of our A Level musicians perform in the school band. Other performances include Prizegiving (held annually), the Concert Series and the Christmas Carol Service. An annual Choir Tour also takes place every summer.

RELATED SUBJECTS

Most subjects relate to Music as it has its own use of Languages, Social Sciences, Science, Mathematical Patterns, and so on. It can also be taken as a contrast to other subjects.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Music GCSE is an advantage but not essential, though you will need to play a musical instrument or sing to grade 4 or 5 standard for AS level and grade 6 or 7 for A Level.

RELATED CAREERS

You could be a performer, composer, arranger, teacher or administrator of music. You could be a recording engineer or a writer of music or this subject may be just an enjoyable pastime!

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT - MR E MILLEST

EXAM BOARD - WJEC