

## MUSIC (Course Code Mu)

Director of Music: Mr S Miall, M.Ed. (Cantab), BA (Hons)

### AQA

#### Course entry requirements

*Enthusiastic, hard-working and interesting musicians enjoy this course.* A '7' grade (A) at GCSE Music, and AB Grade VI or equivalent in at least *one* instrument/voice are our standard requirements. However, other qualifications (e.g. general musicianship, AB Grade V Theory, Rockschoo qualifications etc.) are also welcome. *There is plenty of scope for students with varied musical backgrounds.* Students should expect to develop and use basic keyboard skills during the course. Please discuss any questions with Mr Miall.

#### An Overall View

The study of Music develops the independent, group, and creative thinking skills so prized at university admissions and in professional life. And it is great fun! This course is designed to enable students to study music as a practical, intellectual and creative subject. It aims to extend existing musical skills and to develop the understanding to engage with a diverse range of musical cultures through performance, analysis and composition. Please see Mr Miall if you are interested.

There are three units of study: *Appraising Music, Performance and Composition.*

#### 1 Appraising Music (40%):

3 Areas of Study - Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910 (focused by set works within 3 'strands') and two others from the following: Pop Music, Music for Media, Music for Theatre, Jazz, Contemporary Traditional Music, and Art Music since 1910 (each focused by the study of specified composers or artists). Aural skills (including dictation) and musical understanding are assessed during listening questions, and analysis, contextual, historical skills are assessed through five extended answer questions and one essay. 2½ hour written exam. Externally assessed.

#### 2 Performance (35%):

Performance as a soloist and/or in an ensemble, lasting not less than 10 minutes in total. Internally recorded and externally assessed.

#### 3 Composition (25%):

2 compositions lasting not less than 4½ minutes in combined total. One should be based on a brief set by the exam board; the second is a free composition that can be in any style. Externally assessed.

**The set works studied for Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910 are:**

#### Strand A – Baroque Solo Concerto:

H. Purcell Sonata for Trumpet and Strings in D major Z.850  
A. Vivaldi Flute Concerto in D *Il Gardellino* op.10 no.3 RV428  
J.S. Bach Violin Concerto in A minor BWV1041

#### Strand B – The operas of Mozart:

W.A. Mozart *Le Nozze di Figaro* k.492: Act 1, focusing on: overture, no.1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9

#### Strand C – The piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg:

F. Chopin Ballade no.2 in F major op.38 and Nocturne in E minor op.72 no.1  
J. Brahms Intermezzo in A major op.118 no.2 and Ballade in G minor op.118 no.3  
E. Grieg Norwegian March op.54 no.2 and Notturmo op.54 no.4

#### The specified composers/artists for the other 6 Areas of Study are:

**Pop Music:** Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell, Muse, Beyoncé, Daft Punk, Labrinth

**Music for Media:** Bernard Herrmann, Hans Zimmer, Michael Giacchino, Thomas Newman, Nobuo Uematsu

**Music for Theatre:** Kurt Weill, Richard Rodgers, Stephen Sondheim, Claude-Michel Schönberg, Jason Robert Brown

**Jazz:** Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Pat Metheny, Gwilym Simcock

**Contemporary Traditional Music:** Astor Piazzolla, Toumani Diabaté, Anoushka Shankar, Mariza, Bellowhead

**Art Music since 1910:** Dmitri Shostakovich, Olivier Messiaen, Steve Reich, James MacMillan (Nov 2018)