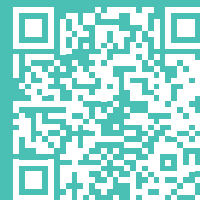


A Level Music AQA

Find out more



LINEAR

Why study Music?

A Level Music gives students a strong foundation for higher education and/or a career in composing, performing, media and film; it may also lead on to teaching or using the cross-curricular skills to other arts careers. A high percentage of our A Level Music students have continued to study music at higher education level or have pursued successful careers as professional musicians. Recent students have progressed to Birmingham Conservatoire, London College of Music, Bath Spa, Cardiff University and one student is now performing professionally on cruise ships.

About the course

The A Level music course gives plenty of opportunity for self-expression. By studying a range of different genres students can increase their own musical repertoire and gain all the skills to develop their own style. The course is suited to all those that have an interest in music and a desire to deepen their understanding of live and recorded music. The course has a heavy practical element and students will be expected to be at least grade 4 standard on their voice or instrument.

Year 12

In the first-year students cover three topics: Unit 1: Appraising Music (the written element). Unit 2: Composition and Unit 3: Performance. For the written element you will study the Western Classical Tradition including Baroque concertos alongside Popular Music which includes artists such as Stevie Wonder, Muse and Daft Punk.

Year 13

The second year follows a similar format but, in more depth, and the composition element is more substantial. The performance element once again allows students to present solo vocal, instrumental or electronic pieces of work. For the written and appraisal element students widen their repertoire to include music for media, studying composers such as Michael Giacchino, Bernard Herman and Hans Zimmer.

Assessment

The breakdown of the components is as follows.

Performance 40%, Listening and Appraisal 25% and Composition 35%. The performance can be recorded at any point during the course. The composition in both AS and A2 is coursework based and externally marked. This will feature a listening exam followed by written answers based on analysis of set works and the units on Popular Music and Music for Media.

Entry criteria

Students will be required to have at least grade 6 at GCSE Music and to be at least grade 4 vocal/ instrumental standard. On occasions some advanced musicians may take up the subject at A Level without a GCSE in music.

Please see a member of the music department if this might apply to you.

Students will be expected to receive instrumental or vocal lessons where appropriate and to participate in the many performance opportunities that are available to them. Students sing in the Staff and Sixth form (SAS) Choir to improve their musical skills and are encouraged to lead groups wherever appropriate. There is a Sixth Form music study room in the music department where students can work on their compositions, essays, research etc. They also have priority for the use of practice rooms when preparing for their performance coursework and we now have a dedicated music study room exclusively for A Level candidates.

Outside the classroom

In addition to the Sixth Form music trips to go to concerts both locally and further afield we will have Arts trips to London, Manchester and Bristol. There are also numerous opportunities for students to lead within the extensive musical extra-curricular programme here at Tretherras: Jazz Band, Samba Band, Acapella, Rock Shop, Ukulele Orchestra, Newquay Strings, a Staff and Sixth Form Choir, several thriving rock bands plus the regular Musical Productions staged in conjunction with the Drama department. Music students are encouraged to attend these where appropriate and help to lead where possible.

