



WESTONBIRT
— SCHOOL —

MUSIC A-LEVEL

Exam Board - AQA

What can I expect from this subject?

Music is constantly evolving; inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can. A-Level Music is a course that brings listening, performing and composition to life in a new and engaging way, linking to the world around us like never before. Over the two-year course pupils will develop transferable skills such as:

- Independent learning; having to be disciplined about practice and wider listening.
- Team work; having to contribute to weekly ensembles, concerts and performances.
- Performance and presentation skills which are useful for any job/career.
- Analytical and essay-writing skills.
- Confidence and self-esteem; which has a knock-on effect in all areas of life.

A-Level Music is a practical course split into three components: Appraising Music, Performance and Composition. Students will study Western Classical Music and two of the following topics: Pop music, Music for Media, Music for Theatre, Jazz, Contemporary Traditional Music and Art Music since 1910. Students will prepare a 10-minute performance as either a soloist or as part of an ensemble and submit two compositions.

What can I do to prepare for this course?

In order to study A-Level Music, students must be working towards Grade 5 on their principle instrument (including voice) and be equivalent to Grade 4 music theory. Students can prepare for the course by taking theory lessons and/or use theory books to revise to this level. Listening to a wide range of repertoire and seeing an array of live music will also be of benefit.

What will my next steps be?

Students who study A-Level Music can go on to study a Music degree or joint honours at university which can lead to a future career in music and teaching. Other options include: training as a music therapist or private tutor and there are a range of careers in arts administration, the music industry or in music venues. Other popular destinations for music graduates include: broadcasting, publishing, law, politics and arts and the creative industries.