

MUSIC

Head of Department: Dr Milestone
Exam Board: Eduqas

Why Study a Music?

This is the easiest question of all! Study music because it enriches the soul and broadens the mind; it is both academically stimulating and emotionally rewarding.

To study music is to encounter works of art that have the power both to express the spirit of an entire age or society, and to allow us access to the innermost emotional urges of some of the greatest musicians.

'The purpose of music education is the pursuit of happiness.' (anon.)

What do you need to study a Music?

A love of music and a desire to delve deeper into its language and history. Practical musical experience is essential, and though GCSE music is usual, it is not mandatory. You should have achieved (or be intending to achieve) Grade 5 Theory by the end of the first year, and should be able to perform on at least one instrument to Grade 5 standard by the same time.

Where will it take you?

Music is a vocational subject, and is essential for those wishing to pursue their formal musical studies at university or music college. The course is both challenging and rewarding, and can be combined with any other subject at A Level. Anyone considering a career in the music industry (from concert performing and arts management to musical journalism) would benefit from the course. Those who choose to discontinue formal musical training post18 will feel the benefits of A-Level Music for the rest of their lives, and universities look favourably upon Music as a relevant academic A Level for all degree courses.

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What will you study?

The course has three components:

Component 1: Performing Music 35%

An externally assessed performance of 10-12 minutes, with a minimum of three pieces. At least one piece must be a solo and the whole performance must cover TWO areas of study (from Classical/Rock & Pop/Jazz/Musicals/C20/C21).

Component 2: Composing 25%

An externally assessed portfolio of 4-6 minutes, consisting of a minimum of two pieces. One must be based on the Western Classical Tradition to a brief set by Eduqas, and the other is a free composition.

Component 3: Appraising 40%

An externally assessed Exam (2h 15m). There are various options but at Leweston our areas of study are: The Development of the Symphony, Musical Theatre, and 'Into the Twentieth Century'. You will be required to undertake analysis of set works with a blank score, essay questions on the wider context of set works, and questions on unprepared extracts with and without a score

The course is taught with an emphasis on the practical experience of music – trips to concerts and opera performances are arranged to bring academic studies to life. Leweston offers many musical activities and there is scope to perform all year round. The Sherborne Schools' Symphony Orchestra and various Leweston ensembles rehearse weekly. Our senior auditioned choir, Schola Cantorum, has a high reputation, providing music for Wednesday Mass as well as singing at weddings, in cathedrals (Westminster and Winchester among them), and undertaking international tours.