

A LEVEL MUSIC



Course description

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Examinations

Component 3: Appraising (2 hour examination) – 40%

Non Examined Assessment (Externally assessed coursework)

Component 1: Performing – 30%

Component 2: Composing – 30%

Course content

Music at Newstead Wood School provides students with an excellent opportunity to continue developing their performing and composing skills to the highest level, as well as listening to and appraising a wide variety of Music from different times, cultures and contexts.

Component 1: Performing

You will work independently, with support from your instrumental teacher and the Music Department, to prepare a recital lasting a minimum of 8 minutes. You will perform at various points throughout the course, in preparation for the final assessed public recital in April of Year 13. You can perform as a soloist or as part of an ensemble, in any style or genre and on any instrument/voice.

Component 2: Composing

You will develop your composing skills in a number of styles, leading to a submission of two pieces. The length of the two compositions combined must be over 6 minutes in total.

- Composition 1 (at least 4 minutes in duration)
 - Free composition
 - Or choose a brief linked to the Areas of Study (set by Edexcel in September of year 13)
- Composition 2 (at least 1 minute in duration)
 - The second composition must be from a list of briefs assessing compositional technique, which are set by Edexcel on 1 April of year 13.

Component 3: Appraising

Students will develop knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language. They will apply their knowledge through studying 6 areas of study, each with 3 set works. The areas of study are; Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions and New Directions.

Entry requirements:

Music GCSE at Grade 7 or above, plus at least Grade 5 on your first instrument.

Future opportunities

Music is an excellent basis for further academic study, both in Music and in other subject areas. Its breadth is valuable to both arts/humanities and science/mathematics candidates in higher education or employment and is often recognised as highly developing skills of communication, self-management, teamwork, problem solving and application of numeracy. Students in year 12 are invited to apply for positions of Music Subject Leaders. Their roles include running student-led ensembles, organising concerts, arranging for professional musicians to give talks and performances at school and to generally promote the subject.

Further information

A Level Music results at Newstead are constantly high. In 2018, 100% of students achieved A*-B grades.

Recent A Level students have gone on to study Music at:

University of Cambridge, Royal College of Music, University of Manchester and Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

There are regular concerts and a wide range of orchestras, ensembles, bands and choirs to take part in. We also offer individual tuition in a wide range of instruments. We have a purpose-built Music department, which provides a perfect setting for these extra-curricular activities.