



Pre-entry Preparation, Requirements and Recommendations

Welcome to A-Level Music at Comberton Sixth Form

At A-Level we follow the Edexcel specification for music at Comberton Sixth Form. The aims of the course are to:

- Develop students' interest and enjoyment in music both as participants and as informed members of an audience, fostering an enthusiasm for and critical appreciation of the art form.
- Experience a range of opportunities to develop a variety of musical skills, enabling students to grow creatively and imaginatively in both composing and performance work.
- Develop understanding and appreciation of the significance of social, cultural and historical influences on the development of music.
- Integrate theory and practice through students' understanding of critical concepts and the use of specialist terminology.

Preparation

Students embarking on this course should have a proven enthusiasm for music and a willingness to investigate a full range of musical styles and conventions. Concerts and extra activities are an integral part of the course and several will be arranged throughout the year. However, students are strongly advised to take the initiative and attend events which interest them or which are particularly relevant to their studies. Students should listen widely and critically to music throughout the course, and should develop their knowledge and understanding of musical styles and genres by subscribing to a periodical such as BBC Music magazine or an instrument-specific journal such as The Strad or International Piano.

At the start of the course please be ready to perform a solo piece and to share a recent composition so that we can get to know each other. These could be examination pieces, from your GCSE course, or something you have worked on over the summer. It would be helpful to review your music theory knowledge too.

Requirements

Theory to Grade 5 standard is strongly advised from the year of entry and performance skills on instrument and voice should be at grade 7 or above by the end of the course.

We will provide recordings of set-works. However, you will need to purchase your own copy of the Anthology of Music to annotate and keep. You will also need an A4 file to store your notes, along with lined paper, highlighters, pens and pencils. As we will be using music technology for some elements of the course you will also need a good quality pair of headphones and a USB Pen drive for backing up work.

Edexcel AS/A Level Anthology of Music

Pearson, Peters and Faber. ISBN 9781292118369

If you have any queries about your course preparation please contact Ben Parker, Head of Music
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