

Music

Qualification:

A-Level Music / BTEC Music Performance

Speak to **Mrs K Millard** for more information.

A Pathway for Every Musician

Music is one of the few subjects that bridges the gap between rigorous academic logic and raw creative expression. Whether you are aiming for the concert hall, the recording studio, or a career in the wider business world, our music department offers two distinct routes to success.

In the event of the school only being able to run one course for year 12 the school will select either A-level Music or BTEC Music Production based on the aspirations of the majority of applicants. This will be communicated to students as early as possible.

Entry Requirements

For both the A Level and BTEC pathways, students must demonstrate a high level of technical proficiency and passion.

- **Performance Standard:** You should ideally be at a minimum of **Grade 4 standard** (ABRSM/RockSchool/Trinity) on your chosen instrument or voice.
 - **Dedication:** A commitment to participating in school ensembles and rehearsals is essential.
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Pathways: Which One is Yours?

A Level Music (WJEC) *The Academic Route*

Following the WJEC specification, this course is an intellectual deep-dive into the "how" and "why" of music. It balances performance and composition with a heavy focus on appraising and analysis. You will study the Western Classical Tradition (Symphonies) alongside modern genres like Rock, Pop, and Jazz.

- **Best for:** Students eyeing traditional Universities or Conservatories for Music, Law, medicine, humanities.
- **Assessment:** Approx. 60% Practical (Performing/Composing) and 40% Written Examination.

BTEC (Music Performance) *The Professional Route*

This is a vocational, "hands-on" equivalent to the A Level. It treats you as a professional musician, focusing on industry-relevant skills such as ensemble performance, music theory in practice, and professional planning. It is designed to mirror the actual music industry.



- **Best for:** Students aiming for careers in Production, Performance, or Music Business. It is fully UCAS-pointed and widely accepted by **Universities** for Music and Arts degrees and is seen as an extra 'string to the bow' to put you ahead of other students if you are applying for academic courses such as medicine.
- **Assessment:** Modular and project-based. No large final theory exam; instead, you are assessed through set tasks, performances, and portfolios.

At a Glance Comparison

Feature	A Level (WJEC)	BTEC National
Primary Style	Analytical & Academic	Vocational & Professional
Entry Level	Grade 4+ Performance	Grade 4+ Performance
Assessment	Large exam at the end of Yr 13	Modular tasks throughout the year
University Path	Prepares for Musicology/Academic degrees	Prepares for Performance/Tech/Modern degrees
Key Skill	Musical Analysis & History	Ensemble Work & Industry Practice

Your Future in Music

A music qualification is a mark of discipline and creative problem-solving. Beyond becoming a **Professional Musician, Producer, or Teacher**, the "soft skills" gained in music help us excel in **Media, Marketing, Event Management, Law** and other vocations.