

MUSIC

A-Level Music



Exam Board: **OCR**

In the Sixth Form, students follow the OCR specification for A-Level Music. The OCR syllabus is a demanding yet rewarding course that covers a wide range of music, through the study of a variety of works. Students engage with external factors that affect the production and consumption of music, developing knowledge and understanding historical and social factors surrounding great musical compositions. They perform and compose in styles that suit their individual musical identities.

How is the course divided?

The course is divided into three parts; performing, composing and appraising. You will perform on your instruments, compose pieces, and study music from a wide range of styles and periods. 60% of your mark is based on practical music-making (performing and composing) and 40% is based on an exam taken in the summer of Year 13.

How will you learn?

As well as rigorous academic study of a variety of pieces, much of the course is practical. You can expect to play an instrument or sing in many of your lessons. Much of your work will be independent; learning about music through performance, listening and reading. You will work in collaboration with teachers, classmates and other musicians in order to develop your understanding in this subject.

What makes a good musician?

This qualification requires a range of different skills; creativity, an eye for detail, and the ability to understand how music relates to other disciplines, such as history or social studies. As well as at least a grade '6' at GCSE Music, you will need to be able to perform at around Grade 5 level (or equivalent, depending on your instrument).

What subjects complement Music and where will it take you?

Music is often paired with Maths, Languages or English. As a performing arts subject it complements a qualification in Drama, yet many musicians with a more logical, methodical approach will pair it with a Science.

Universities value an A-Level in Music across degree courses; it shows a student can handle open-ended, creative work as well as academic analysis, and has a disciplined approach to study. Musicians are found in all industries and follow a wide range of career paths.

Above all, study Music because you love it. Study it to pursue your passion.

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The Music Department at Beaumont School offers a wide range of opportunities for all students to enjoy music-making, both in and out of the classroom. We have a fantastic reputation for the quality of our teaching, and the standard of our extra-curricular ensembles. Our department is inclusive, challenging and engaging, and of course a lot of fun.

Extra-curricular enrichment

The extra-curricular programme at Beaumont School is enormous. We have a range of ensembles: choirs, bands, orchestras and chamber ensembles. There are opportunities for every child to get involved in our department, regardless of experience and prior ability. We perform in numerous concerts throughout the year, both in school and in the local community. We have collaborated with local and national choirs and ensembles, and work with professionals in the music industry. We run a Music Tour to Europe every two years, and often have visiting musicians delivering workshops to our students. One to one instrumental tuition is available on many instruments, with tuition provided by a team of outstanding peripatetic teachers.

Stretch & Challenge

In lessons, students are encouraged to develop their composing and performing skills as much as possible. Our extra-curricular enrichment provides a range of opportunities to develop our musicians, and our auditioned ensembles further stretch our more advanced instrumentalists and singers. Older students often lead ensembles and assist with the running of the department through our Music Captains programme.

We run a number of trips for students, to concerts, talks and other performances. We have a strong tradition of sending students to sing and play in local and national ensembles, such as the National Youth Choir, National Youth Concert Band and the English Schools' Orchestra.

Where can Music take you?

A love of Music is a passion that accompanies you for the rest of your life. The ability to sing or play is an invaluable skill that many desire, but too few possess. Former students have read Music at a range of universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

Careers for Music graduates are wide-ranging. Many industries value creativity, independent learning skills and a collaborative approach: these highly-regarded skills are typically possessed by musicians. You could find work as a musician, or move into education or Arts administration. Really, no career is inaccessible for Music graduates!

Useful links

Beaumont Music Twitter Feed: [www.twitter.com/BeaumontMusic](https://twitter.com/BeaumontMusic)
<https://beaumontschool.com/portfolio-item/music/>