

## PERFORMING ARTS MUSIC



Head of Music: Mr B Fitzgerald  
Teacher: Mr B Fitzgerald, Miss B Morgan  
Examination Board: Edexcel



### Course Outline

A Level Performing Arts is a practical-based course. It focuses on a wide range of the performance aspects of Music. The course is modular, comprising 6 equally weighted units in total, and assessment is done through evidence portfolios and a range of performances. The course explores all the skills required for a career in the performing arts sector and is suitable for any instrumentalist or singer of any style or genre eg: Musical Theatre, Rock, Pop, Jazz and many more.

There are four assessment objectives for Performing Arts. They detail the knowledge, skills and understanding that learners are required to demonstrate:

**AO1:** Knowledge and Understanding of the Performing Arts industry

Learners demonstrate understanding of the processes and products of the performing arts industry.

**AO2:** Acquisition of skills and techniques

Learners acquire skills and techniques in specialist areas.

**AO3:** Application of skills and techniques

Learners realise work by applying skills and techniques in work-related contexts.

**AO4:** Analysis and evaluation

Learners analyse and evaluate their own and others' practice and ideas.

### What Will I Study?

Performing Arts is a versatile and flexible course which allows the learner to explore their strengths, guide their own learning and choose their own outcomes. It allows for individual and group work. The main performing projects in each year are group-based activities.

#### AS LEVEL

**Unit 1:** Developing Skills for Performance.

You will learn:

- how to assess and monitor your own skill level accurately
- the importance of regular and meaningful practice
- how you can evaluate your skill development
- how the skills you learn would be used in the working practices of professionals

**Unit 2:** Planning for a Creative Event

You will learn:

- how to communicate a creative idea
- how to produce an action plan
- how to apply your planning and assess its effectiveness whilst developing your skills in research, planning, developing and evaluation.

**Unit 3:** Performing to a Commission.

You will learn:

- how to respond to the demands of a commission
- how to prepare for a performance and rehearse effectively
- how to understand your own role and how it relates to everyone else in the team

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### A2 LEVEL

Unit 4: Employment Opportunities in the Performing Arts  
You will learn:

- how to report on the employment opportunities of the Performing Arts industry
- how to produce a portfolio reflecting your understanding of the skills required to be a performer
- how to evaluate your skills in relation to the employment opportunities on offer

Unit 5: Advanced Performance Practice.

You will learn:

- how to prepare and rehearse for a performance
- how to perform to an audience
- the different contexts of performance
- how to evaluate your development and performances

Unit 7: Production Delivery.

You will learn:

- how to explore an existing piece, or score as a basis for the development of your own interpretation
- how to understand your own role and how it relates to everyone else's roles in the team
- how to use rehearsal to perfect your production goals
- how to produce and perform a piece that fulfils the demands of your aims and objectives as set down by you and your group



### Entry Requirements

There are no entry requirements or formal qualifications needed to take this course although hard work, enthusiasm and a love of practical music is fairly essential! Learners would benefit from having a GCSE (or other Level 2) qualification in Music, Drama or Performing Arts, and/or graded qualifications on instruments. All learners would benefit from experience of performing through instrumental lessons, concerts, school orchestra and choir, county ensembles, school musical productions, out-of-school theatre groups or rock bands.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

All assessment is by evidence-based portfolio, some internally assessed and some externally. This may include, written reports, research, working notebooks, evaluations, audio or video recordings of performances. All six units are equally weighted at 60 marks (or 33.3%) each. A visiting examiner will be present for the major performances of Units 3 and 7.

### Career Opportunities

A natural progression for a successful A Level candidate is to move on to study Music, Performing Arts or Music Technology at a University or Performing Arts college. There are a wide variety of academic and more specialist courses available and Performing Arts will prepare students well for more advanced practical Musical Training.