

A LEVEL MUSIC

Awarding Body: EDUQAS



Examinations:

Component 3: Appraising (2h15m examination)

Course content

Music at Newstead Wood School provides students with an excellent opportunity to develop you as a performer and composer. Through studying music from a range of different styles, and honing your listening and appraising skills, you will deepen your musical understanding. It is an exciting course that mixes the creative with the academic.

Component 1: Performing

Student's choice of:

- Option A (35%) – Performance of 10-12 minutes.
- Option B (25%) – Performance of 6-8 minutes.

You will work independently, with support from your instrumental teacher and the Music Department, to prepare a recital performance. You will perform at various points throughout the course in preparation for the final assessed public recital in April of Year 13. Students perform as a soloist for at least one of their pieces and can also choose to perform as part of an ensemble. You can perform on any instrument (including voice) and are assessed on performance accuracy, technical control and stylistic awareness.

Component 2: Composing

Student's choice of:

- Option A (25%) – externally assessed portfolio of 4-6 minutes.
- Option B (35%) – externally assessed portfolio of 8-10 minutes.

You will develop advanced composition skills in a number of styles leading to a submission of at least two pieces (depending on your choice of Option A or B). You will have the opportunity to develop your music technology skills within this part of the course, using Logic Pro or Muse score in our Apple Mac suite. You will develop your own unique compositional voice within the conventions of the Western Classical Tradition, as well as within other genres including Rock & Pop, Jazz, Musicals and Twentieth-century music.

Component 3: Appraising (40%)

Students engage with music at an in-depth level, exploring some diverse set works and wider listening. Through developing critical analytical skills, students will uncover how composers have achieved their outcomes; we will explore how the elements of music have been handled and the impact of the music's historical, geographical, and social contexts. All work in this component link to the three areas of study:

- Western Classical Tradition: The Development of the Symphony (one set work)
- Musical Theatre or Pop/Rock
- Into the Twentieth Century (two set works)

Entry requirements

Music GCSE at Level 7 or above. Students will normally have achieved at least Grade 5 (ABRSM or equivalent) on their primary instrument before starting the course.

Future opportunities

The course cultivates skills required across multiple disciplines, such as collaboration, academic writing, creative thinking, working to deadlines and independence. Students in year 12 are invited to apply for positions of Music Subject Leaders.

Further information

A Level Music results at Newstead are constantly high. 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. The Music department at Newstead is thriving with extra-curricular activities, including our senior orchestra and upper school chamber choir, which will perfectly complement your academic music studies at Newstead.