



A-level Music

Music students at LRGS are taught in small groups with plenty of opportunity for individual support and extension. The varied nature of the Music A-Level is challenging but fulfilling as it encourages our students to become thinking and creative musicians. Not only will you work on performance skills, but also learn to compose creatively and to write analytically. A-Level Music will prepare you for things in later life that you are not even thinking of yet!

Extra-curricular ensemble activities form a key part of learning in Music, not only to improve instrumental and vocal skills, but to improve aural skills and to inspire younger students. We also look to our Sixth Formers to set up and lead extracurricular groups to strengthen their knowledge and skills across a range of areas.

Students have access to the practice rooms during free periods, lunchtimes and after school. We encourage students to start their own groups and develop their talents further showcasing them in a great variety of school events and concerts.

A-Level Music is an academic subject where you learn to apply yourself to written work and learn how to write persuasively, critically and evaluatively. It is an option for students who didn't take GCSE Music, but we ask that you are a strong and enthusiastic performer and love to be creative with your musical ideas in composition. A good working knowledge of music theory is helpful (ideally to around Grade 5 level) but can be achieved alongside and as part of the course. The most important thing is that you are motivated and hard working.

Assessment

40% of the A-level is assessed in the form of a written exam, containing listening questions, some analysis of musical scores, more extended questions and finally an essay. The areas of study provide focus for students to appraise, develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language.

Students study three out of a choice of seven areas of study:

1. Western classical tradition 1650–1910 (compulsory)
2. Pop music
3. Music for media
4. Music for theatre
5. Jazz
6. Contemporary traditional music
7. Art music since 1910.

Students must study Area of Study 1 and choose two from Areas of Study 2–7.

35% is a performance of a minimum of 10 minutes, using one or both of the following: instrumental/vocal: as a soloist, and/or as part of an ensemble or production: via music technology.

Students will prepare for this component throughout the course but record their final performance between March and May of Year 13.

The final 25% is composition in the form of two pieces – one in response to a set brief and one free - lasting a combined minimum of 4.5 minutes. Both will be completed in the second year of study.

What can Music lead to?

Music A-level gives you a strong foundation for higher education and a career composing or performing music, or to work in the music industry for TV, radio or film companies.

Music has been a key part of why some of our students have been accepted on to demanding non-musical courses such as medicine as it showcases plenty of transferable skills such as self-management, creativity, data analysis, performance, teamwork, problem-solving and communication, all of which make them an attractive prospect for potential employers across range of industries.

Exam board: AQA

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**Lancaster Royal
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State Day and Boarding School for Boys Aged 11 to 18
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