A LEVEL - MUSIC

Curriculum Overview

The Cambridge International A level Music course allows pupils to specialise in Year 13, depending on their preferred areas of Music. In Year 12 pupils follow a common course, studying Western Classical Music, focusing on the Baroque concerto grosso and programme music of the Romantic Era. In addition to this, pupils are introduced to some case studies from the Folk Tradition, Popular Music and Jazz, which they are required to draw upon in their examination. The examination of this course takes place in the Summer Term of Year 12, and is essay based. It contributes 30% of the marks of the A level final grade. Year 12 is assessed externally, and also features a portfolio of solo recordings (10% of the A level final grade) and a portfolio of original compositions (10% of the A level final grade).

In Year 13 pupils select two of a choice of three coursework components to prepare for external assessment: Extended Performance (25% of the A level final grade); Extended Composition (25% of the A level final grade); or Investigating Music (25% of the A level final grade).

Homework

During Year 12 pupils will be set approximately one essay task per week to complete at home, in addition to ongoing composition and performance work. In Year 13 pupils would be expected to spend at least as much time outside of the classroom as in it, working on their coursework tasks.

Assessment

All work is externally assessed by the examination board for this syllabus.

Digital usage in this subject

Pupils would be expected to access online audio players such as Spotify or YouTube on a regular basis for this course in order to access performance recordings. Online or electronic software for composition is absolutely essential, too.

Resources and Materials

Music lessons for all year groups take place in a purpose equipped room, containing keyboards, drum kits, ukuleles, guitars and a grand piano. In addition to this, students use their iPads to create music through the use of specialist composition applications such as GarageBand and "Flat: Music Score & Tab Editor".