

A Level

Music

Edexcel



The music department is situated in beautiful grounds on the college site in a three-storey Victorian house. Facilities include practice rooms, a room for private study, computer rooms for composition with Sibelius and three recording studios, as well as the Recital Room and more practice rooms in College Centre.

If you choose not to continue this subject onto year two, you are able to sit an AS exam at the end of year one.

What will I be studying?

This course is designed for students who enjoy music and want to develop their skills in performing, composing, listening and writing about music. Students can pursue their preferred style in performing and free composition, while the written paper is based on a range of set works selected from classical, pop and jazz, film scores and world music.

Year 1

- Performing (solo recital of at least 6 minutes at Grade 5 level or above)
- Composition (one to a brief set by the board, one free composition, each at least 2 minutes long)
- Written examination (two essay questions on set works, listening tests and melodic/rhythmic dictation exercise)

Year 2

The three units are developed further in the second year, with more choice of options.

What sort of work will I be doing?

There are lots of opportunities to play and sing in orchestras, jazz bands and choirs. Many smaller groups (like classical ensembles and rock bands) get a chance to showcase their work in our weekly lunch time concerts. The college provides 30 minutes' weekly free instrumental/vocal tuition to A level music students with our team of visiting music teachers. There are master classes and workshops given by professional performers, plus trips to a range of live music events.



How will I be assessed?

Performing: performances are non-examined assessment, monitored by teachers and externally assessed by the board.

Composing: all composing is non-examined assessment, monitored by teachers and externally assessed by the board.

Written paper: one 2 hour exam in May/June

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Financial Implications

Students will be required to pay a £10 contribution towards photocopying. There is one obligatory concert trip for AS music students in the Autumn term – approximate cost £15:00 – and other music trips are optional. Students will be required to buy the New A level Anthology of Music, but these will be available from the music office at a subsidised rate of £30. The College has a Student Support Fund for those students who have difficulty meeting these costs

Career Possibilities

Going on to study music at university or at a conservatoire can lead to a career in performing, composing, conducting or teaching. Music can also lead to careers in the recording industry, publishing, arts management and the media.

Additional entry requirements:

Grade 5 or above in one instrument or voice. If you have not taken this exam you may be asked to audition in July.

You will need the ability to read music scores confidently and therefore we prefer students to have passed Grade 5 Theory. If you do not have this qualification we will ask you to pass a simple notation test at enrolment and take an extra theory class in September. (You will have to pass Grade 5 Theory to progress to A2.) It is also preferable to have taken GCSE music, but you may still apply without it if you are an experienced musician.

Minimum Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs at grade A* - C, including Maths and English.

(Please see additional entry requirements above)

Apply online: www.psc.ac.uk/apply t: 01962 857555 e: admissions@psc.ac.uk

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