

Music

Examination Board: TBC

Why study Music?

The study of Music at A-level provides a worthwhile, satisfying and complete course of study which offers opportunities to enhance existing performance skills and to broaden knowledge, interest and enjoyment through research into a variety of music techniques in different historical contexts.

The course develops imagination, fosters creativity and promotes personal and social development. As well as informing and enriching the student's appreciation and enjoyment of music, its academic rigour sets out approaches and lays down standards for critical judgement which are transferable to learning in other subjects.

The A-level specification is designed to develop skills to a level appropriate for entrance to courses of study in Music in Higher Education – and to provide access to a range of music-related employment. There is some overlap with Advanced GNVQ Media Studies, Performing Arts, Music Theatre and the new Diplomas in Music Practice.

Entry Requirements

Prior Music GCSE qualification is an advantage but is not compulsory, as experienced performers (Grades 4-8) may already have the necessary skills to undertake a significant part of the areas of study. Candidates are, however, expected and required to take an active part in the school's musical activities and to attend in-house and external concerts as directed. Oswestry School also hosts an outstanding recital series allowing pupils to attend concerts presented by the best internationally renowned soloists and ensembles, providing an excellent opportunity to experience live performance.

Subject Specification

The A level examinations include aural and analysis, composing and performing as three distinct units. Listening skills are assessed through the medium of a written exam on 'set works' and related historical studies. Composition skills are demonstrated through a portfolio of work including responses to set brief, free choice and technical exercises. Performance is assessed by the development and presentation of a recital at the end of the second year.

Further information

Students or parents requiring any further details are most welcome to contact Mr J Cattley, Director of Music (jrc@oswestryschool.org.uk).

