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# Music

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## Head of Learning

Mr B Wheeler

## Peripatetic Music Teachers

For Piano, Brass, Strings,  
Woodwind, Guitar, Singing  
and Drums

## Exam Board

Edexcel A Level Music

### Why study Music?

If you have a love of music, and particularly if you play an instrument or sing to a high standard, then Music is an excellent A Level to choose. The content of the course is broad and ranges from Bach to the Beatles, so it includes something for everyone. You will have opportunities to improve your playing and composing skills alongside like-minded and skilled young musicians. If you are planning for a degree or career in music then you should take A Level Music.

Even if you're not planning a career in music it is a highly valued A Level. Music is a creative and performance-driven subject. It develops skills and abilities such as public performance as well as improving your self-confidence and resilience. Skills needed for employment in the 21st century include adaptability, decision-making, and high-level analytical skills; music develops all of these and more. This is perhaps one of the reasons why so many Higher Education courses look favourably on students who have studied music.

### Course Outline

#### Component 1: **Performance**

Students prepare and perform an 8 minute recital which is recorded and then marked externally. Students are required to perform repertoire of at least Grade 6 standard.

#### Component 2: **Composing**

Students will learn the processes involved in creating music through developing the technical and expressive skills needed by a composer. Students will produce a portfolio of compositions which are marked externally.

#### Component 3: **Appraising**

The purpose of this component is for students to develop their aural, theory and appraising skills through the study of music across a variety of styles and genres. There are 13 set works to study over the 2 years of the course featuring a diverse range of composers including: Kate Bush, Danny Elfman, Courtney Pine, Igor Stravinsky and Clara Schumann.

### Where are they now?

Recent students of Music at CRGS have gone on to study:

- Music (*Birmingham Conservatoire, Leeds Conservatoire and Leeds University*)
- Music Production (*London College of Music*)

## Assessment

- Performance (solo or ensemble) 30%
- Composition (free and technical) 30%
- Appraising (final exam) 40%

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Q. Is any previous knowledge required to study this subject?*

Students who wish to study Music at A Level should:

- Have Grade 6 in GCSE Music

**OR**

- Have passed Grade 6 ABRSM/Trinity/Rock School Practical **and** Grade 5 Music Theory.

Students are required to meet the General Entry Requirement of a minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade 6 with at least GCSE grade 4 in English Language and Maths.

*Q. Do I need to have taken GCSE music?*

No. As not all schools offer GCSE music this is not a requirement. However, you **must** have a minimum of Grade 6 on your chosen instrument and a Grade 5 in Music Theory as the performance standard for A Level is high. If you have never composed before you should try composing in your own time to prepare for the course.

*Q. What opportunities are there for Extended Learning?*

Students are encouraged to join ensembles including: Choir, Orchestra, Swing Band, Senior Brass Ensemble, Guitar Group, String Group or Woodwind Group.

*Q. What facilities are there?*

Lessons take place in the Main School music room and recitals take place in the York Street Lecture Theatre. A Level music students are allowed to use the Yamaha Grand Piano in the Lecture Theatre for rehearsal and composition in their freetimes.

## Exam Board Specification

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Music (9MUO)  
<https://qualifications.pearson.com>



## CRGS Sixth Form Admissions

### Apply

[www.crgs.org.uk/sixth-form/admissions](http://www.crgs.org.uk/sixth-form/admissions)

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