

MUSIC

THIS SUBJECT IS USUALLY DELIVERED AT TORQUAY BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HOWEVER, **IF ENOUGH TGGs STUDENTS OPT FOR IT**. IT WILL BE DELIVERED AT TGGs BY OUR TEACHING STAFF.

“The greatest scientists are artists as well” Albert Einstein

Current Teaching Staff:

Mr C Eastman - Head of Department

Examination board and syllabus: Eduqas

Entrance requirement: GCSE Grade 7 and grade 5 standard on any instrument/voice OR GCSE Grade 6 and Grade 6 on any instrument/voice. In exceptional circumstances it may be possible for advanced performers without GCSE, but with grade 5 theory, to join the course after interview with Head of Department.

Einstein may well have been thinking of the creativity that sets the greatest scientists (and politicians, sports-people, engineers or teachers) apart, but he could equally have been referring to the problem solving, research, planning, analytical and critical thinking skills and, of course, teamwork skills that are developed so well through music. Not only does A Level music nurture these academic skills superbly, but it is highly valued by universities and opens up increasingly diverse career opportunities.

COURSE AIMS & OBJECTIVES

To develop students' musical skills, knowledge and understanding through the practical and academic study of a broad range of musical genres, engendering a passion for the subject. Students are encouraged to make links between the disciplines of composing, performing and appraising, becoming independent, reflective and enquiring musicians.

COURSE CONTENT

Performing

Skills are developed throughout the course leading to a recital of at least six minutes. The music can be in any style and on any instrument or voice, played from notation or improvised. Students can perform as soloists or as part of an ensemble.

Composing

Students extend their compositional skills through the application of a range of methods which include traditional western melodic writing, jazz harmony and 20th and 21st century techniques. They complete two to three contrasting pieces inspired by their learning, one of which is to a brief set by the exam board.

Appraising

Students develop their listening and appraising skills through the study of music across a variety of styles and genres laid out in six areas of study. There are two set works taken from the Western Classical Tradition, in addition to which learners choose to study Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre or Jazz and Into the Twentieth Century or Into the Twenty First Century.

This component gives students the opportunity to use their growing musical understanding to reflect on, analyse and evaluate music in aural and/or written form using the musical vocabulary appropriate to the style.

STYLE OF TEACHING/DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT

An integrated approach is taken to teaching of the music A Level. Students take the opportunity to perform works from each area of study and to compose using the stylistic conventions of the relevant genre. Listening and appraising is used to support composition and performance work as well as develop the critical skills required for the examination.

Composition is completed and externally assessed in the final year of study.

Performance is assessed by a visiting examiner in the year of certification.

Appraising is assessed through an externally marked examination at the end of the course.

AS Music

We also offer AS Music as an extension option. The AS course follows the same pattern as A Level but students study fewer composers in the Western Classical unit and only take the Rock, Jazz or Musical Theatre option. There are reduced performance and composition requirements and the entrance requirement is GCSE Grade 6 with Grade 4. Because of its close relationship to A Level the AS option is studied over two years.

CAREERS

There are many obvious careers in music in the areas of teaching and performing. However, other career opportunities can be found in such areas as journalism, events management, music therapy and work in the recording industry. Music is universally accepted by universities and colleges as an entrance qualification and many employers recognise the degree of motivation, self-discipline and co-operation with others that the subject requires.