

Specialist Qualification in Music Performance



Entry Criteria:

- Five GCSE's at Grade 4 or above
- One of the five to be GCSE Mathematics or English at Grade 4 or above.

Coursework/Examination Requirements: The course comprises two internally assessed units and two externally assessed units. Units are coursework based with the externally assessed units completed under controlled conditions.

Awarding Body/Specifications: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance. Students will be awarded a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* by the points gained for the successful achievement of individual units.

Specialist Qualification (equivalent to one A Level): This is a practically based, work related course which is equivalent to one A Level. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic work place situations. **The following units will be covered on this course:**

Year 12

Unit 3 – Ensemble Music Performance

Musicians rarely work in isolation and the ability to perform as part of an ensemble is an essential skill for any musician, regardless of style. Whether you are part of a pop group or a large symphony orchestra, the skills of teamwork and communication are vital. In this unit, you will become part of a musical group and will develop your ensemble skills by taking part in rehearsals. As an ensemble, you will be given a list of songs from which you must choose three. You will then learn, rehearse and perform these songs to an audience.

Unit 5 – Music Performance Session Styles

In this unit, you will explore a range of genres and styles, investigating their scales, tonality, rhythms, riffs and groove. It will give you greater insight into the skills and knowledge needed to be a working sessions musician. You will develop your own musical skills as well as the skills of collaboration for performance in different settings, such as the recording studio and the stage.

Year 13

Unit 1 – Practical Music Theory and Harmony

Music theory and harmony relates to all forms of music. It is about how the music we make and listen to is constructed and how it works. This unit will develop your knowledge and understanding of fundamental musical theory and how it is applied in practical musical activities.

Unit 2 – Professional Practice in the Music Industry

Behind the bright lights, costumes, gigs, sessions and festivals, the music industry is run by people who are measured by how professional they are in their behaviour. Being professional is not optional in the music industry – it is key – and the industry treats it as highly important. This unit is designed to enable you to develop the relevant skills, knowledge and understanding needed.

Specialist Qualification Certificate: If you choose to study this subject for one year only, you will be awarded the Certificate (equivalent to one AS Level). You will cover Units 3 and 5 and sit public examinations in Year 12.

Progression: Music is highly valued by employers and Higher Education institutions. Possible career paths include Music Production, Retail or Performance.

Opportunities: The opportunity to perform in venues outside school and to plan and deliver a music performance evening of your own in a venue of your choosing. Work with invited guests from the music industry and mentor students from the Level 2 Music programme.