Why study this subject?
Studying music at A Level gives you the opportunity to deepen and broaden your understanding of music, how it has developed over time and how this has impacted composing and performing.

What happens in lessons?
Lessons are practical and the coursework elements enable students to develop their personal interests for composing and performing.

Course Assessment
Performing – 35%
Composing – 25%
Listening and appraising – 40%

Performing: Students will perform a 10 minute programme of pieces which will be recorded and sent for assessment. Students can choose from the following: Solo performance, Ensemble performance, Music production. Students can choose music in any style, and any instruments or voice are acceptable.

Composing: There are two areas of assessment. Students will compose to a set brief. Students will compose a free composition in their own chosen style. Total composition time must be between 10-12 minutes.

Listening and Analysing: Students will be assessed on their ability to analyse and evaluate music heard in the exam and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the musical elements to make critical judgements. Students will develop the ability to critically analyse a variety of music including Baroque, classical, Romantic, Jazz and Popular styles. They will be required to answer questions related to both familiar and unfamiliar music in these styles, and complete an essay question.

What to do afterwards
Studying music can lead to a variety of interesting careers including: sound production for TV/film/video/gaming, film music composer, professional/session musician, instrumental teaching, band teaching, school teaching, music therapist, theatre stage manager, events manager and many more.

Reading around the subject
Students are encouraged to listen to as much unfamiliar music as possible during the course. Classical FM and BBC Radio 3 are a great choice for analysing music outside of the classroom. There are a variety of music magazines available for different tastes and genres such as BBC music magazine, Sound on Sound and Future music.