

# Spotlight on Music in the Sixth Form

## Introduction

We offer three options music in the sixth form: Music; Music Technology; IB Music at Standard or Higher Level.

All are distinct and provide excellent opportunities for further progression at university and beyond. Music is highly regarded by universities and industry for its unique combination of developing a student's ability to communicate and express, analyse and multi-task.

## Music AS Level (Edexcel) consists of...

### Performing 30%

*Six to eight minute recital on one or more instruments.  
Playing standard expected is Grade 5*

### Composing 30%

*Three to five minute composition with CD sleeve notes explaining your process*

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*A short harmony exercise writing for Soprano / Alto / Tenor / Bass ( choir)*

### Developing Musical Understanding 40%

*Listening and analysis questions based on vocal and instrumental set works*

## Music A2 Level (Edexcel) consists of...

### Performing 30%

*Twelve to Fifteen minute recital on one or more instruments.  
Playing standard expected is Grade 6*

### Composing 30%

*Two compositions lasting from three to five minutes or one composition and a compositional techniques exercise e.g. Bach Chorales*

### Developing Musical Understanding 40%

*Listening and analysis questions based on applied works composed for a specific context and a study of set works covering continuity and change in instrumental music through the ages.*

## Music Technology AS Level (Edexcel) consists of...

### Coursework Portfolio 60%

1. **Sequenced Performance** (based on a song specified by Edexcel)

2. **Multi-track recording** (*at least 8 live tracks*)
3. **Creative Sequenced Arrangement** (*based on a choice of two stimuli*)

**Listening Exam on Music Technology 40%**

*Questions on music technology and two specific styles of popular music chosen by Edexcel*

## **Music Technology A2 Level** (Edexcel) consists of...

**Coursework Portfolio 60%**

1. **Sequenced Integrated Performance** (*based on a choice of 2 songs specified by Edexcel and involving live vocals*)
2. **Multi-track recording** (*at least 12 live tracks*)
3. **Composing using music technology** (*based on a choice of three briefs set by Edexcel in September each year*)

**Listening Exam on Music Technology 40%**

*Questions to test understanding of the history of music technology and the ability to edit recorded music. This is a practical exam based on a computer.*

## **International Baccalaureate in Music** consists of...

**Coursework Portfolio**

- **Standard Level** IB students will choose to either develop a fifteen minute recital or compose two pieces.
- **Higher Level** IB students will develop a twenty minute recital and compose three pieces lasting between three and six minutes.

**Standard and Higher Students all complete the following:**

**Listening and Analysis Exam 30%**

*Questions are based on a variety of unseen extracts alongside questions on two set works. Current set works for 2015 and 2016 are: Rossini – Petite Messe Solonelle and Gershwin – An American in Paris.*

**Investigating Musical Links 20%**

*Exploring, analysing and examining the musical connections between two pieces from two distinct cultures.*

## **Reasons to Study Music, Music Technology or IB Music**

There is a strong tradition of music at Ellesmere College. Music is accepted as a challenging academic subject in all universities. More importantly music is a core part of the arts. My aim is to make your learning enjoyable and meaningful, to ensure that you are challenged to develop and aspire to the highest standard you are capable of and to develop your expressive skills in a supportive and friendly environment.

## **Students who went on to study music at university this year...**

John Paul achieved an A\* in Music Technology and an A in Music and will be starting his studies at St. Peter's College Oxford where he will also be a choral scholar.

George Fradley achieved an A in Music Technology and a B in Music and is now studying at the Royal Welsh College of Music.