

A LEVEL MUSIC



Music Theory

Before you start the A level Music course it will be really useful to know some theory. If you've already taken Grade 5 theory, that's great. If you haven't then it would be useful to find some time before you start the A level course to boost your theory knowledge.

A couple of useful websites are www.musictheory.net and www.musicaa.com but there are many more out there, as well as some useful YouTube videos.

The Open University also provide a free Introduction to Music Theory online course and you get a certificate of completion when you're done!! Just search 'OU music theory' and you should find it.

Performance

You should be at least working towards a Grade 5 standard (instrumental grades not GCSE grades!) when you start the course (an informal audition will take place if you haven't taken practical exams).

So, **keep practising** your instrument/s between now and the start of the course. In the second week of the course you will **perform a piece** you have chosen to the teacher, so get practising something that shows off what you can do! We'll call it your **Party Piece**.

Composition

You are required to compose as part of the A Level Music course. Before you start the course I would like you to compose a short piece in whatever style and for whatever instruments/voices you like based on the subject of '**Birds**'. It needs to be at least 30 seconds long and you will need to submit an audio file of it when you start college. That can be computer/software generated or a recording of a live performance or a combination of the two.

You might want to listen to some of these for inspiration:

The Swan – by Saint Saens <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b44-5M4e9nl>

The Aviary – by Saint Saens https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1PQRu_C5fQ

Blackbird – by The Beatles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Man4Xw8Xypo>

Albatross – by Fleetwood Mac <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOJeMv1zNDY>

La Gallina (the hen) – by Respighi <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYJ8JdGFInw>

Music History

Before you start the course, choose one of the following composers or artists and create an **informative A4 poster** about their life/career and their work. You will study them in your first year.

Joseph Haydn



Ludwig van Beethoven



The Beatles



Aretha Franklin

