

How useful is Music A Level ?

Music helps you to develop a variety of skills such as analysis, dedication, group skills, self confidence and self-reliance, as well as providing a means of artistic expression and relaxation. Plus it stretches your imagination and playing an instrument also makes you think and react quickly. **Skills such as these are not just prized within music careers, they are valuable to all types of employers.**

Music is a highly regarded academic subject and whether you take it with a view to a career in music or as an additional A level subject, it is held in high esteem by universities and other institutions of higher education. Most people, however, study Music because they love it and you will have plenty of practical opportunities to develop your talents.

What our students think !

“I am really glad I took music at Aquinas - the opportunities with the orchestra and practical side to the course ensured it was enjoyable whilst the more theoretical side was clearly explained and study skills were developed. I would recommend it to any prospective student.”

“I have really enjoyed this subject and have had a fantastic time being part of the orchestra. The support given by my teacher has been amazing whether related to the actual course or to do with (practical) music lessons. I would recommend anyone thinking about taking this subject to do so, and if you play an instrument join the orchestra.”

Music GCSE

Information



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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What are the Entrance Requirements ?

You will need to be able to play an instrument and read from some style of notation, whether it is traditional notation or TAB for Guitar players.

Why should I choose Aquinas ?

Aquinas is consistently at the top of the league tables for this area. The music department encourages the same high pastoral and academic standards found in all areas of college life. We have an excellent pass rate and our results are always above the national average. We try to create an environment which is relaxed and friendly, where you will be motivated to work hard under the guidance and support of staff. You may find that the atmosphere in lessons is quite informal, but we've found it gets the best results for us!

What will I study on the course ?

Unit 1 - Performing

You will perform one solo piece and one ensemble piece, both of which will be recorded. For this part of the course you will also need to perform one of your compositions.

Unit 2 - Composing

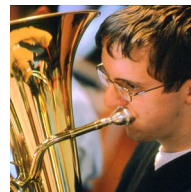
This area of the course requires you to compose two pieces of music of at least three minutes in total. The compositions must also be inspired by work covered in Unit 3. You will learn how to write music effectively and we have both the Sibelius score writing package and the Cubase sequencing package. You will be given lessons by a professional composer in a dedicated computer suite, and further workstations are available in the Music House for use in your free time.

Unit 3 - Listening and Understanding

This is the only unit of the GCSE qualification which is an examination. For this unit you will explore the main elements of music and will have to show that you can answer short questions based on music that you will listen to in the exam and back it up with knowledge developed during lessons. We look at four different areas of study covering Baroque to Reggae and Musicals to Indian Music, this should contain something of interest to everyone!

How useful is GCSE Music ?

Music helps you to develop a variety of skills such as analysis, dedication, team-work, self-confidence and self-reliance, as well as providing a means to artistic expression and relaxation. Plus it stretches your imagination and playing an instrument also makes you think and react quickly. Skills such as these are not just prized within music careers, they are valuable to all types of employers. Most people study Music because they love it and you will have plenty of practical opportunities to develop your talents.



Can I have instrumental lessons ?

Yes ! You may already have an instrumental teacher, in which case you won't need to change. However, if you need a new one we have an excellent team of visiting teachers. All of our teachers are highly qualified and work hard to establish good relationships with students. They will always be available to guide you through the practical parts of your course.

What about general music making ?

There are lots of opportunities to get involved in music.

Musicals: You can take part in musicals such as Little Shop of Horrors, Grease and Cabaret. You can try for a main part, join the chorus or play in the band. Alternatively, if you don't like the limelight you can get involved backstage.

Orchestra: There is an orchestra which plays to a high standard but you don't have to be above a certain grade to join. If you're enthusiastic and enjoy playing music, that's all that matters. Come along to rehearsals and try it out.

Small Ensembles: Aquinas has a percussion group and a choir which plays at college concerts and other functions. There are also a number of rock bands which rehearse in college. If you don't play in a band but would like to, you can set one up - you might never look back!

Workshops: As a music student you will take part in workshops with professionals from leading classical and jazz organisations such as the Halle Orchestra. This will provide valuable opportunities to work alongside professional musicians. Recent projects include jazz and salsa workshops, plus master classes with professional pianists and brass players.