

Music at Samuel Whitbread Academy

Intent

Music is a unique subject that gives students the ability to express their creativity in a safe and practical way. It teaches students to connect with other people, working as a group as well as giving the opportunity to express themselves individually. Music integrates many different subjects, as well as teaching them transferable skills that they can apply to other subjects and careers.

At Samuel Whitbread we endeavour to improve student's confidence through our inclusive curriculum and opportunities. The act of making Music develops young people's sense of identity and increases resilience, which will help to prepare them for life after education.

A Level Music teaches young people about culture and diversity through studying different composers and learning their techniques. Every culture has used music as an integral part of life, whether it be to creatively tell a story, share a message or celebrate.

Implementation

A Level Music is split into three components: Performance, Composition and Appraising. Lessons will be split to enable students to develop each area of the course confidently and it allows students to explore each set work whilst embedding reading and literacy skills. Students will be given challenging and specific reading tasks to be used as a learning tool. All subject material for Music will be accessible for students through the sixth form learning platform, as well as on google classroom. Students will be provided with many performance opportunities throughout the year which they are encouraged to take advantage of.

The first year of A Level Music will study a selection of the following set works (order changes each year):

Area of Study	Set Works
Vocal Music	J.S.Bach - Cantata, Ein Feste Burg
	Vaughan Williams - On Wenlock Edge
Instrumental Music	Clara Wieck-Schumann - Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17: movement 1
	Berlioz - Symphonie Fantastique
Music for Film	Danny Elfman - Batman Returns
	Bernard Herrmann - Psycho
Popular Music and Jazz	Kate Bush - Hounds of Love
	Beatles - Revolver
	Courtney Pine - Back in the Day
Fusions	Debussy - Estampes
	Anoushka Shankar - Breathing Under Water
New Directions	Kaija Saariaho - Petals for Violincello and Live Electronics
	Stravinsky - The Rite of Spring

Throughout the studying of each set work, as well as the musical elements, the history, social and cultural context is explored to understand the reasons why pieces may have been written the way they were and the development through eras and the composers time. These pieces are compared and contrasted to other pieces of similar time, genre, style and composer as well as discussing influences and developments.

Alongside the theory, year 12s will learn how to develop their compositional skills and techniques, and how to compose to a given brief, as well as apply the mark scheme effectively. Finally, students will develop their performance skills ready for their recital performance in year 13.

Implementation

Key Stage 5: Year 12

Key Stage 5: Year 13

Throughout year 13, students will study the remaining of the listed set works, embedding in the context and comparisons to other pieces. Briefs for compositions are released so developing composition towards a brief will begin and complete by April of year 13. Recital for performance component to be completed during this year. Work towards the exam continues with developing writing skill and historic, social and cultural factors embedded into written work.

Impact

Students will have had the chance to study a broad and rich music curriculum which will enable them to access further education as well as continue to develop their love for the subject. Students will have the opportunity to perform as many times as they wish, therefore developing their confidence and skill.

They will also have had the opportunity to work with a professional composer, developing their skills in compositional techniques as well as the ability to write to a brief.