**A-Level Music**

**Overview**

For students who are considering taking Music to A Level this guide should give you an overview of the course, and the kind of skills you can be working on before commencing the course. This A level has 3 main components:

Performance: as a soloist/ensemble to a minimum Grade 5 standard at AS Level and Grade 6 standard at A Level.

Composition: to compose pieces of music to a set brief supplied by the exam board and also to a free brief of your own choice.

Appraising: An exam covering set Areas of study at AS – The Western Classical Tradition, Musical Theatre and the addition of 20th Century Music for the full A Level.

As you can see you will need to develop skills in all three areas to be successful with this A Level. Students who have not studied GCSE Music need to undertake some work on key skills in order to access the course. Students planning to take the A Level in Music should ideally be having regular lessons on their solo instrument/or singing, in order to prepare music at Grades 5-8. In the full A level there is the opportunity to specialise as a performer or a composer according to where the skillset best lines up.

**Whilst there will be some specific ‘bridging work’ set on the school website before the end of term, developing an understanding of the following musical vocabulary prior to this would be useful:**

Melody

Articulation

Dynamics

Texture

Structure

Harmony

Instrumentation

Rhythm

Tempo

Tonality

Some key documents are available for you to work on these skills if you have not studied GCSE Music with us. I would recommend joining our Year 11 into 12 Team on MS\_Teams, so that you can access a bank of resources. You can do this by emailing [vma@cdarwin.com](mailto:vma@cdarwin.com) and requesting to join.

It would also be a good idea to brush up some basic music notation reading and writing skills. Again, there are packs that you can work through in order to improve skills in this area, and these will be available on the Team mentioned above.

We would also expect that you are regularly practising on your instrument/voice over the coming months. Set yourself a goal of learning some pieces of music to play. Perhaps you could visit the different exam board websites, and access lists of repertoire that is graded at Grade 5 and above. Again, links for these websites will be made available on the Team.

**We would recommend that you work on all musical skills each week between now and the start of the course.**

**Save your work in a portfolio that can be incorporated into your subject folder if/once you decide to commence this course.**