

Why choose Music?

Music is academically challenging, life-enhancing, and creative. A Level Music is highly regarded at many universities, and is a must for anyone wishing to read music at university/degree level.

A Level Music ensures that a student develops as a complete musician - as a performer, a composer, and as a music analyst and explorer.

What will you learn?

During your **A Level** year, you will refine your solo and ensemble performance skills, in preparation for an 8 minute public recital in Year 13. You will work on instrumental technique, and should be able to play accurately, fluently and expressively. You will learn how to successfully programme a recital.

You will develop your composition skills in order to write to a brief (for a specific audience and occasion), and refine your compositional techniques by studying and completing Bach chorales (4 part harmony). Your compositional techniques will be refined: these techniques will include exploring graphic scores and experimental music, writing for voice in various song forms, and the underscoring of moving images in film.

You will explore and deepen your knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language, through six areas of study, each with three set works:

1. Vocal Music (Bach, Mozart, Vaughan Williams)
2. Instrumental Music (Vivaldi, Brahms, Berlioz)
3. Music for Film (Herrmann, Badelt & Zimmer, Elfman)
4. Popular Music and Jazz (Beatles, Courtney Pine, David Bowie)
5. Fusions (Debussy, Cubanismo, Rahman)
6. New Directions (Cage, Britten, Schoenberg)

You will also apply this knowledge to music that you have not heard before.

Why study Music at Hackney New Sixth Form?

The Director of Music is a highly experienced teacher who has successfully delivered Edexcel AS and A Level Music. Many of her students have gone on to read Music at university. There are additionally two further full-time music teachers in the department.

As a professional classical performer (a recorder player) who has studied in the UK and the Netherlands, the Director of Music has commissioned and recorded new works from contemporary composers.

The Music Department comprises two music classrooms/spaces, a recording studio, a music technology classroom (Apple Macs with Garageband, Sibelius 8 and Logic Pro X), and 10 practice rooms with pianos, keyboards, and drum kits (both acoustic and electronic), a host of musical instruments and 13 instrument teachers.

We collaborate with many outside music providers such as Hackney Music Service, LSO St. Luke's, and Match & Fuse, and we invite musicians into school to give practical workshops and concerts.

Students have the opportunity to take ABRSM and Trinity Guildhall instrumental exams in the Summer term, where appropriate. Students are loaned instruments for a one-off fee of £10, and receive an annual instrumental lesson report.

What are the entry requirements for studying Music at HNSF?

Music GCSE grade boundaries are to be decided, but the ability to play your instrument to a minimum of Grade 5 standard, and fluently read staff notation in both treble and bass clefs will be a requirement. You will also be able to understand theoretical concepts at Grade 5.

At interview, you will perform a recent piece with an accompaniment or backing track complete part of a Grade 5 theory paper, and analyse a score.

How will I be assessed?

The Edexcel specification is split into 3 components: performing, composing, and appraising.

Assessment Overview		
		Every component is externally assessed by Edexcel
Performing	30%	8 minute public recital of one or more pieces, performed in front of an invited audience, between March and May.

		<p>This can be playing or singing solo, in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music using music technology. (60 marks)</p>
Composing	30%	<p>Two compositions, a minimum of 6 minutes.</p> <p>One composition must be from either a list of briefs related to the areas of study, or a free composition. This composition must be at least 4 minutes in duration. (40 marks)</p> <p>One composition is the completion of a Bach chorale. This composition must be at least 1 minute in duration. (20 marks)</p> <p>The compositions will be submitted to Edexcel before May 15.</p>
Appraising	40%	<p>Two hour written exam, in which every candidate receives his or her own CD which contains extracts from both the set works and unfamiliar music.</p> <p><u>Section A: Areas of study and dictation (50 marks)</u></p> <p>Three questions related to the set works (audio and skeleton score provided).</p> <p>One short melody/rhythm completion exercise.</p> <p><u>Section B: Extended response (50 marks)</u></p> <p>Essay one asks students to draw links from their study of the set works to the music heard as an unfamiliar extract. (20 marks)</p> <p>Essay two gives a choice of three questions that ask students to evaluate the musical elements, context and language of one set work. Each option will be from a different area of study. (30 marks)</p>

