

Head of Department: Mrs. K Droskie

Music was one of our ancestors' original forms of communication, and it endures as a constant and great source of pleasure today. The academic study of music enables students to understand different genres of music. They also have the opportunity to learn an instrument or compose their own pieces, activities which can be highly rewarding. Across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, students explore a variety of units, introducing them to different genres and allowing them to explore other cultures through their music.

KS3

All students study Music at KS3, where they explore musical theory as well as a wide variety of music from other cultures and genres. Highlights include: The Orchestra; Film Soundtracks; Music from Africa and from India; and Chromaticism and the Blues.

KS4

We are proud to offer the AQA GCSE course in Music to our KS4 students. This is an exciting and challenging qualification which encompasses music from across the globe and throughout human history. Students study music from the Western tradition from the 1600s up to 1910 alongside traditional music from other cultures, and contemporary popular musical culture. They will be given a firm foundation of theoretical knowledge around notation, composition, and musical elements, as well as the opportunity to perform, compose, and record their own pieces.

Sixth Form

The study of Music opens doors to understanding human nature and civilisation, and complements a wide variety of other subjects. At Laureate, we offer both an A-Level course and a vocational course in music.

The WJEC Eduqas A-Level course is designed to offer contrast and breadth as well as depth of study. Students will engage with both classical and popular music and have the flexibility to specialise in either performing or composing. It is designed to allow candidates to pursue their own musical interests while developing skills in the three distinct but related disciplines of performing, composing and appraising. They will explore the skills of performing, composing and appraising, and will also study theoretical approaches, reinforcing their knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language. They will also be given the opportunity to showcase their own musicality as they are assessed in both performance and composition.

This course provides a good foundation for the study of music or a related area through a range of higher education courses, progression to the next level of vocational qualifications or employment. In addition, it provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study that will develop a wide range of transferable skills such as critical thinking, research, communication, team-work, self-confidence, analytical, technological and evaluation skills.

The Cambridge Technical course in Music (Performing Arts) is devoted to educating students in the knowledge and skills required for employment and for the community as a whole. It also offers the opportunity for developing the behaviours and attributes needed to progress and succeed in education and in work. During this course, students will focus on creating music, mastering techniques as an instrumentalist, and producing music using technology, singing or performance. They will also acquire experience writing songs and managing the equipment used in the music-making process.