

Information for students studying Music in Year 12 at Latymer



There is no Edexcel AS qualification in Music, so Year 12 ends with a UCAS Exam that equates more or less to what AS Music used to be.

There is no need for extensive reading around the subject in preparation for starting A Level Music, though the following books may be of general interest. The second is more appropriate to dip in and out of rather than to read from cover to cover.

Nicholas Cook	<i>A Short Introduction to Music</i>
Donald J Grout	<i>A History of Western Music</i>

More important is familiarity with the sort of music theory needed for A Level Music. Many prospective Sixth Form musicians will have already taken Grade 5 Music Theory; if not, you are very much encouraged to cover the material required for this grade.

Music shops such as Les Aldrich (Muswell Hill) stock music theory past papers, while the useful *AB Guide to Music Theory* comes in two volumes, each about £7: Book 1 covers Grade 1-5, Book 2 covers Grade 6-8.

In terms of playing instruments and singing, keep practising! Auditions are likely at the start of term for choirs and orchestras – get involved! - aside from starting to prepare for Component 1 Performing. Plan ahead, so that your performance for Component 1 is fully prepared as early in the year as possible.

Do listen to a broad range of music before the A level course begins, where possible and appropriate, following notation. There is of course a wealth of music available on the Internet, such as the enormous library of downloadable scores on IMSLP and YouTube videos with the scores (notation).

Aside from 'wider listening', fluency with *Sibelius* software will be important for the composition part of the course. If you have not used this before Year 12, there will be an opportunity for you to get up to speed with it in September.

The most successful A Level students tend to be those who combine musical talent with genuine musical curiosity and a real appetite for broadening their musical understanding and experience. Hopefully you will tick those boxes!

Dr Jim Harrison
Head of Music