

MUSIC

Why should I study Music?

Music is a universal language: no matter who you are or where you come from, you can enjoy music. Studying music helps to gain a deeper level of understanding through a wide range of genres and styles. Not only this, but the study of music enables one to develop a number of valuable transferable skills: creativity, teamwork, self-confidence, concentration, coordination – these will all support with skills needed in other A levels and can improve employability. Music is different from most other A levels due to its practical nature and high percentage of coursework, and can open up numerous opportunities for arts careers (e.g. performance, composition, musicology, ethnomusicology, sound engineering, conducting, popular music and jazz, music education, and elsewhere in the music industry).

Bolingbroke is best for Music because..

Music plays a central role in life at Bolingbroke Academy. The extra-curricular opportunities here are unparalleled, with an extensive enrichment programme offering 18+ enrichments each week, a variety of performance opportunities throughout the year, trips and workshops, as well as subsidised peripatetic lessons on a variety of instruments led by dedicated Music specialists. Bolingbroke has fantastic music resources with numerous teaching rooms, a wide variety of instruments (including orchestral instruments, tuned percussion and djembes) and equipment such as a mac suite and recording studio.

What will I study?

The A-level will consist of three components:

1. Performing – a recital of at least 8 minutes which can be playing or singing solo, in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music using music technology.
2. Composing – two compositions of 6 minutes combined duration, one of which is free and the other in response to a set brief.
3. Appraising – a written listening paper of 2 hours which covers the following:
 - Knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language
 - Application of knowledge through the context of six areas of study, each with three set works (the areas of study are Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions and New Directions)
 - Application of knowledge to unfamiliar works

Additional activities within this subject

- Weekly peripatetic instrumental lessons led by specialists at subsidised rates
- A huge range of musical enrichments open to all sixth form pupils
- Performance opportunities throughout the year (such as whole-school assembly performances, seasonal concerts, whole-school musical production)
- The Scholar and Apprentice Programme is a prestigious scheme that identifies gifted and talented musicians at Bolingbroke and enables them to develop



What our students say

“Music at Bolingbroke is not only fun, but it’s inspiring and extraordinary. Music here comes to life.”

Class of 2019 student

- their musicianship further (through leadership and performance opportunities and mentoring by a dedicated member of the Music staff team)
- Opportunities for Sixth Form pupils to put on their own performance or lead an enrichment