

# EDUCATION EVOLVED

## Music

### What's the difference between Music A level and BTEC Music Performance?

In A level Music you study a wide range of genres and specialise in classical music (although there is an area of study on popular music). You also need to be able to compose music and read standard musical notation. In the BTEC you are taught music theory as part of the course and you only study and perform popular music.

### Can I take more than one music course?

Yes, although you do need to consider your future academic/career path; if two of your three level 3 qualifications are music-related it's unlikely you'll be moving on to something unrelated after college. Taking all three qualifications is very unusual and a conversation would need to be had with a music specialist before enrolment.

### Can I have instrumental or voice lessons in college?

Yes, whether or not you are enrolling on one of our music courses. A regular one-to-one lesson is compulsory for A level Music and BTEC Music Performance students.

### Do I need a GCSE in Music to access your courses?

No, we would rather you had a GCSE but understand that many schools no longer offer it as an option. It would be most useful for accessing A level Music but an audition and music theory test ensure that you had the potential to be successful on this course without the GCSE. If you have taken the GCSE, you must achieve a minimum of a grade 4 to access the A level Music course.

### Do I need performing skills to take A level Music Technology?

No, this course is all about producing. However, the ability to play an instrument, especially keyboard, will help with composition tasks.

### Are there any additional expenses we need to be aware of for any of your courses?

A level Music and BTEC Music Performance students have to have a regular one-to-one instrumental or vocal lesson either with one of our teachers in college or arranged privately outside. There is obviously a cost for these (presently £140 per term for 10 individual lessons). Students on A level Music and BTEC Music Performance courses who qualify for the college's bursary fund can get support with these costs. A level Music students have the option to buy their own copies of the scores for the set works (approximate cost £45.00) but we will provide them with free pdf versions. A level Music Technology students should provide their own good quality stereo headphones. A list of recommended models will be sent to applicants before the course starts.

### How will I know if my performance skills are good enough for either A level Music or BTEC Music Performance?

If you have a grade 3 or 4 in an instrument or voice already then you will almost certainly be good enough. If you haven't taken any grades you could ask your school's music teacher to let you know what level you are working at. Alternatively you could ask your instrumental/voice teacher or arrange a lesson with one if you're not already having lessons. Ultimately, you will be auditioned for both of these courses and a successful audition is a prerequisite for entry onto them.

