

## A LEVEL MUSIC: THE PROGRAMME

**Appraising Music** – Written examination. This component is worth 40% of the AS marks, and 40% of the A level marks.

**Performance** – Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist/vocalist. A minimum of six minutes of performance in total is required at AS and ten minutes at A level. This component is worth 30% of the AS marks and 35% of the A level marks.

**Composition** – Two compositions with a minimum of four and a half minutes in total is required. This component is worth 30% of the AS marks and 25% of the A level.

## BTEC LEVEL 3: THE PROGRAMME

The programme covers a broad basis of study for the music sector with a focus on performance, personal instrumental technique development, music theory and professional practice. We would expect any student wishing to take BTEC level 3 to have a Merit or Distinction in BTEC level 2 or a C or above in GCSE Music and be an active musician, either in or out of school. The ability to read music is essential.

## WHY STUDY THIS SUBJECT?

Music offers academic rigour through the study of music theory, history and analysis of musical works, while through composition and performance, independent creativity is developed. Both A Level and BTEC Music prepare students for further musical study, should they wish to follow this pathway, or provide a solid foundation for musical participation and enjoyment outside of studies, should a different career path be pursued.

As a VI form musician you will be expected to play a full part in the musical life of the College, playing in ensembles and taking leadership roles where possible. There are many and varied opportunities for performance, both in and out of College and Carmel musicians are also encouraged to become part of the Durham Music Service ensembles.

## CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Studying Music opens the doors to all kinds of careers – and not just the obvious ones like performing, composing and teaching. 'The music industry' can mean anything from working for a record label; broadcasting; selling music for films, TV and advertising; venue or festival management; music journalism; copyright law; music therapy and countless other varied and exciting roles. Former music students find themselves thriving in roles in the business, legal, medical, academic and financial fields. Music is also a well-respected academic subject for those students wishing to pursue other degree courses at University level.

