

A Level Music

Why study this course at Cronton Sixth Form?

A level Music is a highly respected academic qualification. It pushes students to the limits of their creativity, practical skills, and musical knowledge. You need to really love the subject to take on the challenge of this A level.

Over the course of your two years at Cronton you will visit prestigious concert halls and gig venues to watch the best musicians in the world perform. We run several live performances each year, both inside and outside college. You will hear your own music performed and recorded. If you are looking to apply for prestigious universities, music is a great choice to stand out from the crowd.

What will I study?

Music A level gives you an incredible amount of individual freedom to perform and create. Every student receives a free one-to-one performance lesson each week, and as a result half of our cohort achieved A* grades in the practical component of the course. You will compose a portfolio of pieces, combining free choice and set briefs. Lessons will focus on theory knowledge, social and historical context, and listening skills. Over the two years you will cover more than 250 years of music, encompassing the Western Classical Tradition, Musical Theatre, Jazz, Rock and Pop.

Please note:
all of our A Level subjects must be studied as part of a full time A Level programme. You will choose 3 A level subjects to study over two years.

How will I be assessed?

This is a linear A level, so all of the assessment occurs at the end of the second year. You can choose to emphasise composition or performance depending on your strengths – they can be worth either 25 or 35% each. The rest of the grade is made up of a listening and analysis exam.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 3 x Grade 5s and 2 x Grade 4s at GCSE including a Grade 5 in English Language. One of your Grade 5s to be in Music.

We expect our students to be working at around G4/5 standard on their chosen instrument. All Music A Level applicants will be expected to perform an audition before being offered a place on the course.



A Centre of Excellence

Students studying Performing Arts will become part of our Centre of Excellence. As such, they will be taught by some of the best teaching staff in the country and benefit from a wide range of extra-curricular activities to support their onward applications to the country's most prestigious institutions.

Students will develop their talents and professional skills by enjoying our wide range of experiences including; international trips, being part of industry standard performances, performing at professional venues, high profile patrons and professional links, free music tuition and nationally recognised Bronze, Silver and Gold Arts Awards.

Performing Arts

- Perform at professional venues across the country
- FREE individual music tuition in your chosen instrument for A Level Music students



Can I study this course if I have not taken it at GCSE?

If you did not have the opportunity to take GCSE music, then we would expect you to have G5 or higher on your chosen instrument, and be able to read music fluently.

G5 Music theory is preferable – if you have not done this, working through the 'ABRSM Music Theory in Practice' workbooks over the summer would be a good idea. All of our students are required to audition in the summer term preceding their start at Cronton. If you haven't been able to take Music GCSE, you may be asked to provide a portfolio of your compositions.

Enrichment Opportunities

As you would expect, A Level Music is based around extra-curricular commitment and Cronton Sixth Form College offers a wide range of performance opportunities that benefit the wider community. As a Centre of Excellence the department is committed to a wide range of industry standard productions throughout the year and you are encouraged to be a part of this. Our Centre of Excellence performs THREE major musicals and a series of concerts throughout the year in our

state of the art theatre, The Cronton Playhouse. A Level Music students form the backbone of both the orchestra and stage performance groups. We also offer the opportunity to experience the best shows the world has to offer, including regular trips to New York, Paris and London.

What can this course lead on to?

You will build your creative skills, developing a professional standard portfolio of your own written music. Students develop to a minimum of Grade 6 performance standard (ABRSM, Rockschoool, Trinity / LCM exam boards) by the end of the course. You will also have an incredible technical knowledge of the way music works, and the way musical ensembles function. This can set you up for a career in technical professions, the humanities, the arts, management – the list is endless.

Any additional costs?

No specific books or equipment is required, as long as you have access to the instrument of your choosing to practise at home.

Meet the Students

Name:
Emily Head

Previously from:
Broughton Hall Catholic High School

Destination:
University of Sheffield, Music

A Level Results:
Music A+
Maths A+
Physics A



Cronton Playhouse

The Cronton Playhouse is a brand new 320 seat theatre with orchestra pit. The theatre is home to the very latest technology and an advanced technical booth offering new spectacular effects and high impact sound to further enhance the Centre of Excellence performances to industry standard.