

Level 2

Professional Music Programme

Why study this course at Cronton Sixth Form?

At Cronton Sixth Form College we welcome and celebrate all styles of music. Our Professional Music Programme is aimed at preparing our students for employment and further study in the music industry as performers, composers, songwriters, recording engineers and other production roles.

If you have a strong interest in music and are considering higher-level study or you wish to gain specialist vocational skills to develop your employability, then the Professional Music Programme is for you.

What will I study?

Performance Element:

A number of practical performance units run throughout the course, in which you will be working in bands to develop musical material to perform at a number of external venues, such as The Studio (Widnes), the Cavern Club (Liverpool) and Parr Street Studios (Liverpool). In rehearsals, you will work as professional bands and you will have a say in what songs and styles of music you perform. In this way, we reflect real industry experience in developing your interests and professionalism, as well as working towards a performance.

At all times in the year, you will be working towards a public performance of one form or another.

Recording, Sequencing & Software Element:

You will also have the chance to record and sequence your musical ideas using industry-standard DAW and notation software such as ProTools, Sibelius and MuseScore. You will also develop industry-standard practice methods in both studio and live recording scenarios, and gain experience in composing, arranging, mixing and mastering.

Music Theory Element:

This course focuses on popular music theory and particularly on aspects that will help you become a more efficient and confident player on your chosen instrument(s), and that will also allow you to compose more effectively and to a higher standard.

Music industry Element:

Our whole Level 3 Music course is designed around the concept of working as a professional within the music industry. As such, all units are approached as a project (or part of a project) that you would undertake as a freelancer or employee in the music industry.

In addition, as part of your course you will undertake a substantial work experience placement within the music industry, adding to your experience and preparing you for the next steps in your career.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed on coursework only. There are no exams on the Professional Music Programme. Your coursework assessments will include all of your gigs, compositions, and written tasks.

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

- The opportunity to perform in industry standard productions
- Perform at professional venues across the country
- Exclusive links with dance conservatoires and performance institutes



Please note:

You will study your vocational course full time over one or two years. Vocational courses are assessed via a mix of projects, assessments and exams and can also offer students progression to university.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 4 GCSEs at Grade 9 – 3 including a grade 3 in English Language and a grade 2 in Maths.

- You must be able to play an instrument/sing competently and have an interest in the industry.
- You will need to successfully pass a musical audition for this course. This will be arranged after your admissions interview.

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

You can study this course without having studied GCSE. The Level 2 Professional Music Programme is ideal for anyone who has not taken a GCSE or BTEC in music, and also for anyone who is not quite ready for the challenge of Level 3.

Enrichment Opportunities

- Prestigious Universities Programme
- Prestigious Studies programme
- Centre Of Excellence

What can this course lead on to?

Achieving a Merit or above on this course will make you eligible to progress on to the Level 3 UAL Extended Diploma in Music (equivalent to 3 A Levels), which can then lead to a relevant specialised degree at university and/or a diverse range of employment opportunities in the industry as a music practitioner.

Any additional costs?

Students are expected to use their own instrument in college, although drums and keyboards are provided for lessons. Students will need to maintain their instruments, for example guitarists will need to be prepared to replace broken strings.

All students will also need a pair of headphones with a standard audio cable that will plug into a laptop or PC.

What have previous students said about this course?

“The opportunities available to me at Cronton have been amazing, there are a number of performances that we do each year and as a Music student you can contribute to each of them”

Ofsted Outstanding 2020

Our students

“Relationships between learners, apprentices and their teachers and assessors are excellent”

“Learners and apprentices develop their confidence, resilience and strong independence skills”

Outstanding Results 2021

100%
Pass Rate



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.

