

# 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, particularly Music Theory as this is the main focus of most lessons.

Over the course of two years at Cronton you will visit prestigious concert halls to watch the best musicians in the world perform. We run several live performances each year, at which you will have the opportunity to perform. 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 covers the three components of Performance, Composition and Listening and Analysing. You can choose to study more performance (35%) and less composition (25%) or vice versa. The Listening and Analysing component is worth 40% of your final grade. Performance is assessed by a visiting examiner during the second year of the course and you are expected to be playing at Grade 6 standard for 10 to 12 minutes. Composition requires a piece composed in the Western Classical Tradition (a brief for this is set by the exam board) and a second piece which can be a free composition. As part of the Listening and Analysing paper, you will study the Development of the Symphony, including set works by Haydn and Mendelssohn, Music of the

Twentieth Century, including set works by Debussy and Poulenc and Jazz from 1920 to 1960.

## How will I be assessed?

The performance component is assessed by a visiting examiner during the second year of your course. Compositions are sent to the exam board for marking by an external examiner and the Listening and Analysing component consists of one written paper assessed in June of your second year.

## Entry Requirements

A minimum of 3 x Grade 5's and 2 x Grade 4's at GCSE including a Grade 5 in English Language. One of your Grade 5's must be in Music. We expect our students to be working at around Grade 4/5 standard on their chosen instrument. All Music A Level applicants will be invited to attend an audition before being offered a place on the course.

If you haven't taken GCSE music you will need to have passed the ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory exam before you enrol at college. You will also need to pass an audition.



## 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
- Individual music tuition in your chosen instrument for A Level Music students

## The Cronton Experience

At Cronton you can take part in many enrichment activities such as:

- The High Achievers Programme
- Professional Programmes for Tomorrow's Scientists, Lawyers and Teachers
- Centres of Excellence in STEM, Performing Arts and Sport
- Student Leadership Team
- College Sports Teams
- TASS (Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme)
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- International Trips
- Scholarships



Learn more about the Cronton Experience at:  
[www.cronton.ac.uk/experience](http://www.cronton.ac.uk/experience)

## 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. You will also need to have passed your ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory qualification prior to enrolling at college.

## 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 develop your creative and theoretical skills to enable you to access any University or Conservatoire of your choice. Students develop to a minimum of Grade 6 performance standard (ABRSM, Rockschoo, Trinity / LCM exam boards) by the end of the course. You will have an incredible theoretical knowledge of the way music works, and the way musical ensembles function. The list of progression for Music is endless, with approximately 50% of students choosing to continue Music at University and the other 50% choosing courses that are not directly Music related.

## 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.