

WGSB6 A Level Options Music FAQ Information Sheet



Which exam board and courses are studied at Level 3?

The RSL (Rockschool) Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners is an alternative qualification to traditional A levels, focusing specifically on practical music skills and industry knowledge.

Do universities accept vocational qualifications?

They are **well respected and widely accepted by universities** and highly valued by employers for the industry level skills and talents they help you acquire.

What skills will studying Music equip me with?

Studying music will equip you with a range of skills including:

- Technical proficiency on an instrument or voice.
- Composition and songwriting abilities.
- Understanding of musical theory and notation.
- Performance skills, both solo and in a group.
- Project management and collaboration skills.
- A working understanding of the UK Music industry.

Do I need a specific grade at GCSE to access Level 3 Music?

Typically, a minimum of a Grade 5 in GCSE Music or a Merit in BTEC Music is recommended, but we will consider students with strong musical experience even without a formal qualification.

How is the course structured and how will it be taught?

The course is structured around practical workshops, class lectures and performance opportunities. Learning activities include

- Group projects and collaborative work.
- Individual tutorials and feedback sessions.
- Masterclasses from industry professionals.
- Hands on experience in rehearsals and performances.

Is there a coursework component?

The course is 100% coursework based, there are no linear written exams.

Who teaches the course?

The course is taught by Mr McCabe and Miss McEntee.

How is the course resourced?

The department is housed in a purpose built suite containing two music classrooms and 3 practice rooms. Additional practice space for drummers is available on site. There are a range of guitars, bass guitars, amps, microphones and recording equipment available for level 3 students to use.



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Will I need to do a lot of independent study?

Yes, independent study is encouraged. Students should be prepared to practice regularly, engage with course materials outside of class, and work on projects or compositions independently.

What are typical A level subject choices alongside Music?

- English Language
- Business Studies
- Economics
- PE
- Theatre Studies

Do I need to take another subject to support my study of Music?

While there is no formal requirement, taking subjects like English Language, Business or Drama can complement your music studies and provide a broader skill set.

What subject related extracurricular opportunities are offered in Music?

There are 18 different musical ensembles in the music department, many of which are open to RSL Diploma students.

How might Music help me in my next steps / university / career planning?

Studying music can help in various ways, including

- Building a portfolio for music or performing arts courses.
- Developing skills that are valuable in creative industries.
- Networking opportunities within the music community.
- Enhancing critical thinking, creativity and discipline which are beneficial in any career.

Other helpful information about studying Music

Studying music can be deeply rewarding and offers a pathway to a variety of careers, from performance to education to music production. It encourages creativity, teamwork and personal expression, making it a unique and valuable field of study.

