

Frequently Asked Questions

MUSIC A LEVEL

Question: What are some of the key topics I would cover?

Answer: There are 3 components to the course, Performance, Composition and Music History.

Performance – assessed by an 8-minute recital in your second year.

Composition – one free choice composition in any style and a technical study.

Music History – study of a variety of works from the Beatles to Bach, assessed by an exam at the end of the course

Question: How many other subjects can I choose alongside this one?

Answer: Music is a full A level so can be combined with 2 other A levels.

Question: What is the learning style like within this subject?

Answer: Lessons are a mixture individual and group work, with one to one teaching in performance and composition. Being 60% coursework there is obviously an amount of practical work.

Question: How will I be assessed?

Answer: Both Composition and Performance are externally assessed at the end of the second year. The Performance is an 8 minute recital and the composition is 4½ minutes.

The written exam is 50% essay and 50% listening on works we have studied during the course.

Question: What support can I access if I am struggling?

Answer: We have a wide range of resources to help you, including online materials. The nature of the course means there is a lot of bespoke teaching and learning so you will essentially have one to one lessons, including with specialist instrumental teachers.

Question: Are there any subject specific entry requirements?

Answer: Yes, please refer to the prospectus [here](#) for general and subject specific entry requirements

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Are there normally any trips that I can go on?

Answer: We have several trips to concerts, helping to further the understanding of the works we study. There will also be the opportunity to take part in some trips abroad including performing in a Chopin Festival in Sulechow, Poland and a Jazz Band trip to Meudon, France.

Question: What do students who have studied this area normally do after Collyer's?

Answer: Some students go on and study music to a higher level, either at university or music conservatoire. However many go on to study other subjects at university, including Law, Medicine, Astro-Physics, Maths and English.

Question: What extra-curricular activities are available at Collyer's?

Answer: There are 3 main ensembles that are timetabled and led by staff: **Orchestra, Choir and Jazz Ensemble**. Each year we set up bespoke chamber ensembles tutored by professional musicians, such as a piano trio and a clarinet quartet.

Question: Do you provide instrumental lessons?

Answer: All A level Music students at Collyer's are entitled to 10 hours free tuition a year on their main instrument / voice with a West Sussex Music partner teacher, not necessarily from West Sussex Music.