

Heckmondwike Grammar School



# A Level Music



For September 2024 entry

## Welcome

...to the Music Department

At Heckmondwike Grammar School every pupil from year 7 to 13 is given the opportunity to express themselves through the pleasures of making music.

We are an extremely busy, popular and successful department, whether it's making music in class in year 7, GCSE or at A level, or taking up instrumental lessons from our highly experienced peripatetic staff or joining the vast array of extra-curricular performance opportunities available to all students.

This document will provide you with further information about **A level music** as well as general musical life at Heckmondwike.

**At HGS we have had a 100% pass rate in A level Music for many years, including a number of high achieving students gaining the top grades.**

**In the previous 3 years our student grades have all been A\*-B in A level music** (except just 1 C grade!)

## Could you be an HGS A Level Music Student?

We are looking for creative students with a passion for all things music.

If you enjoy performing, composing, arranging, studying and interpreting music, then you're the students we want.

You need to be diligent, enthusiastic and driven - along with being committed to our wider HGS music scene.

We are keen for our A Level students to take on leadership and mentoring roles to enhance and develop their HGS experience.

If this sounds like you come and speak to us in the Music department to discuss the course - or email us for further information.

Watch our Promo here -

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5pJm4U4AFI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5pJm4U4AFI)

## Benefits of A Level Music at Heckmondwike Grammar School

Two dedicated full time and one part time music staff, plus access to support from six peripatetic staff, all with various and contrasting musical support skills.

Traditionally small groups with personalised support

Support with auditions for University entry

Dedicated A level music study room & recording studio

Familiar staff, environment and ensembles

Easier to take a lead in or develop music groups

The Edexcel course flows directly from our GCSE course into A level

The Edexcel course allows you to perform as many times as you wish and pick the best one to send off (rather than a one chance final performance with other exam boards)



## A Level Music Course Overview

This is a 2 year linear course.

The Edexcel A level music qualification aims to inspire the next generation of students in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills. Students will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

### Component 1 - Performing (30%)

Total performance time of 8 minutes. Performances can be solo and/or ensemble and can include a range of pieces and styles, including music technology. They can be on any instrument or voice and there are numerous opportunities to complete these during the course.



### Component 2 - Composing (30%)

*Undertaken as coursework completed during the course*

Two compositions lasting a total of 6 minutes, including:

- 1 free choice (minimum 4 minutes)
- 1 brief assessing techniques (minimum 1 minute) - choice of Bach harmony, creative arrangement of music technology remix



### Component 3 - Appraising Exam (40%)

*The exam time is 2 hours 10 minutes*

There will be 6 areas of study, with set works in each.

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Film Music
- Popular Music and Jazz
- Fusions
- New Directions

## Set Works

Area of Study	Set Works
Vocal Music	<p><b>J. S. Bach - Cantata, <i>Ein feste Burg</i>: Movements 1, 2, 8</b></p> <p><b>Vaughan Williams - On Wenlock Edge: Nos. 1, 3 and 5</b> ('On Wenlock Edge', 'Is my team ploughing?' and 'Bredon Hill')</p>
Instrumental Music	<p><b>Berlioz - Symphonie Fantastique: Movement 1</b></p> <p><b>Clara Schumann - Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17: movement 1</b></p>
Music for Film	<p><b>Bernard Herrmann, Psycho: Prelude, The City, Marion, The Toys, The Cellar, The Murder (Shower Scene), Discovery, Finale</b></p> <p><b>Danny Elfman - Batman Returns: Main theme, Birth of a Penguin Part 1, Rise and fall from grace, Batman vs the Circus</b></p>
Popular Music and Jazz	<p><b>The Beatles - Revolver: Eleanor Rigby, Here, there and everywhere, I want to tell you and Tomorrow never knows</b></p> <p><b>Kate Bush - Hounds of love: 'Cloudbusting', 'And dream of sheep', 'Under Ice'</b></p> <p><b>Courtney Pine - Back in the Day: Inner state (of mind), Lady Day and (John Coltrane), Love and affection</b></p>
Fusions	<p><b>Debussy - 'Estampes': Nos. 1 and 2 ('Pagodes' and 'La soirée dans Grenade')</b></p> <p><b>Anoushka Shankar - Breathing Under Water: 'Burn', 'Breathing Under Water', and 'Easy'</b></p>
New Directions	<p><b>Stravinsky, The Rite of Spring: Introduction, The Augurs of Spring, and Ritual of Abduction</b></p> <p><b>Kaija Saariaho - Petals for Violoncello and Live Electronics</b></p>

## Facilities and Resources

### A Level Music Study Room and Recording Studio

This is built around a Focusrite professional digital multi-track recording system and a wide range of professional microphones. The area includes a control room and live room, a full drum kit, digital piano, guitars and amps. There are an additional 3 purpose-built hi-spec music technology computers running Sibelius and Cubase with Focusrite audio interfaces. This is a perfect room for A level music students to study, work on coursework, practice or experiment in all kinds of music making.

### Main Music Area

Includes 1 large classroom with a new Yamaha Clavinova digital piano, keyboards, PA, drum kit, a large store area and 5 practice rooms each with full size digital pianos.



### Computer Lab

A 31 PC music lab with Sibelius Ultimate & Cubase installed. Each PC has a MIDI keyboard and a Focusrite Scarlett audio interface.

### Further Equipment

In addition to a full range of general classroom keyboards and percussion we have a full set of Samba drums and African drums, a professional xylophone and glockenspiel, 4 timpani and a variety of guitars, mics and amplifiers.

### Reference

There are a wide range of reference resources available from textbooks, scores & audio libraries - to online resources linked to Teams and Spotify. Along with a traditional text book we also subscribe to both online resources of *Focus on Sound* and *Mastering A Level music* for students to access.

<https://www.focusonsound.com>

<https://masteringlevelmusic.co.uk>



### Swann Hall and Hutton Studio

Many of our concerts, recitals and some rehearsals take place in our main school hall or drama studio. These are both fitted with PA audio systems and lighting displays. There are two acoustic pianos available - one Steinway grand & one new upright piano.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

We have a full and envious range of extra-curricular music activities at HGS. Ensembles include a 40+ strong Concert Band, a 40+ strong Senior Choir, a Girls Chamber Choir, a String Group, a Percussion Group, a Brass Group and a gigging Soul Band. (plus various junior ensembles).



Rehearsals are usually in the music area, although for large ensembles such as the Concert Band we use the Swann Hall or Hutton Drama studio.

Concerts take place both in and out of school and we have recently performed at Music for Youth and the Marsden Jazz Festival, as well as other local venues such as Wakefield Cathedral and Dewsbury Town Hall. We have previously taken music tours and trips including tours abroad and our regular London Musical Theatre trip. Each year we take our A level music students to a variety of professional concerts and productions.

The department has put on many concerts and productions over the years. These have included full musicals such as *'We Will Rock You'*, *'Grease'*, *'Little Shop of Horrors'*, *'Return to the Forbidden Planet'*, *'West Side Story'* and *'The Wiz'*. Last year's show was *The Addams Family Musical*. Each show has its own pit band made up of HGS students.



Our regular themed concerts have featured ideas such as *Music from the Movies*, *Disney*, *The Sound of Musicals* and *Music through the Decades*. At the end of each term we have our traditional Carol Service, Spring Showcase Concert and Summer Showcase Concert; the latter of which features items from our annual inter-house music competition.

## **Music Department Staff**

Studying A level music at HGS enables you to have access to a wide range of musicianship from our dedicated specialist music team. We traditionally have low numbers in a class which enables a high degree of personalised support from our two full time and one part time music staff

### **Mr G. Cole BMus, MMus, PGCE**

*Head of Department*

Mr Cole studied for his Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Huddersfield completing modules in performance and analysis before majoring in composition, electro-acoustic music technology and 20th Century 'modern' music. He also undertook a Masters Degree in Music at the University of Leeds specialising in composition, orchestration and film music. As a brass player he has performed with several Championship Section Brass Bands in some of the most prestigious concert venues in the UK. His compositions and arrangements are published by Faber Music, Kirklees Music and JustBrass and have been performed both nationally and internationally. Mr Cole has taught A level music at HGS for over 25 years and has special interests in film music, popular music history, jazz and 20th Century 'modern' music.



### **Miss L. Sutcliffe BA, MA, PGCE**

*Teacher of Music, Head of Year 11, House Co-ordinator*

Miss Sutcliffe is in her sixth year at HGS having previously taught at Crossley Heath Grammar School. In 2015, she completed her music degree at the University of Leeds studying performance, composition and analysis. Following her PGCE, Miss Sutcliffe has also recently completed her Masters Degree at the University of Huddersfield specialising in Music Education. A keen fan of musicals, Miss Sutcliffe enjoys playing and composing in the musical theatre genre. She has previously worked as a piano peripatetic and dance teacher, and outside of work competes regionally and nationally in dance. She is looking forward to continuing to work with the talented, hardworking music students of HGS, both in lessons and in the extra-curricular groups.



### **Mrs N Fisher BMus, PGCE**

*Teacher of Music*

Mrs Fisher is in her 2nd having previously taught at Beckfoot School in Bingley for 8 years. She has a wide range of experience teaching Music and Drama in a variety of educational settings including; middle, comprehensive and grammar schools. More recently she has been teaching Music at Calderdale Post-16 College in Halifax.

In 2008 Mrs Fisher completed her Music degree at the University of Huddersfield studying modules in performance, composition and musicology. She is a keen woodwind player, the clarinet and saxophone in particular and also plays in Calderdale Big Band. The group play regular concerts and jazz festivals around the local area.





Our six visiting peripatetic teachers are regular performers and have a huge specialised skill set between them. They are always on hand to assist you in your studies.

**Mr D. Hall, MA (Oxon), MA, Dip ABRSM - Singing and Piano tutor**

David brings twenty years' experience as a professional singer and choir trainer. He possesses an MA in performance (singing) from Huddersfield University, and holds a diploma in singing from the Associated Board of the Royal Colleges of Music. He performs professionally around the region, specialising in musical theatre, oratorio, opera and English song, and has taught singing at Heckmondwike since 2014. He is also in demand as an accompanist, organist and choir trainer, and directs the HGS senior choir.

**Mrs A Preece, BMus, LRSM, DipABRSM - Strings, Piano and Theory tutor**

Amy has a 1st class honours degree in music along with performance diplomas in violin (LRSM) and piano (DipABRSM). She is particularly interested in Baroque and Classical compositions along with contemporary composition. She recently reached the final of a composition competition taking part in a workshop with Master of the Queens Music, Judith Weir. Amy has also performed as a soloist performing a number of violin concertos with orchestras.

**Miss L Rosborough, BMus - Drums & Tuned Percussion tutor**

Lauren graduated from The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in 2017 where she studied Percussion and Drum kit. Lauren regularly writes her own compositions and arrangements for Percussion ensemble using both tuned and untuned writing. Alongside her teaching work Lauren plays professionally within orchestral and pit band settings.

**Mr J. Russell, BA - Woodwind tutor**

James plays saxophone touring and recording with Jamiroquai. He is also a well-respected composer and producer, who has contributed horn arrangements to the latest Jamiroquai album. Along with many respected big bands he has also appeared with Rat Pack Live In Las Vegas, the Roy Wood Band, Jason Donovan and as part of the live band on TVs 'The Voice'. James was responsible for writing " The Romeo And Juliet Jazz Suite " for Octet and Voice in fourteen parts that toured nationally.

**Mr J. Davies, BMus, PG.Dip, LRAM - Brass tutor**

After graduating from The Royal Academy of Music in London in 2008, Jim was invited to join the London Philharmonic Orchestra Future First Scheme and London Symphony Orchestra discovery programmes to assist and work aside other professional musicians on educational outreach projects throughout London. From 2010-2020 Jim held Trumpet chairs on theatre productions in the West End and toured National, European and locations in the Far East. To name a few: *Matilda, Hairspray, Shrek, Blood brothers, Legally Blonde, Joseph, Scrooge, Wicked*. Today, Jim mostly performs on productions at Leeds Playhouse, Sheffield Theatres and Royal Exchange in Manchester. Jim also is a keen Brass and Orchestrator with published works with BrassWind. He is looking forward to continuing the success of an already thriving music department at HGS.

**Mr O. Dunster-Sigtermans, BA - Guitar tutor**

Ollie graduated from Leeds Conservatoire of Music, studying Popular Music. He teaches all aspects of guitar, from classical to electric to bass and is also a tutor for Rock School UK. Studio experience includes electric, rhythm and lead guitar, acoustic guitar, drums, bass guitar and backing vocals. His main musical interest is rock music and has released an EP and single with his band. However, as a multi-instrumentalist, his versatility has allowed him to play in a wide variety of bands, including folk, indie and blues. He also regularly performs with a function band at various events, covering popular songs from the 60s to the present.

## Career Opportunities

### Q: What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Music can lead to further study in music in higher education at degree level and may lead on to a career in the music industry or a related field.

Some examples of associated careers include -

*Performer or Composer (pop, classical, jazz, theatre, etc.), TV/Radio Industry, Military Bandsman (RAF, Marines etc.), Teaching & Education, Music Therapist, TV/Film Composer, Internet & Media Publishing, Recording Engineer, Audio Engineering, Audio editing & Production, Music Software Development, Video Games industry, Music Librarian, Publishing & Editing, Music Journalist, Music Arranging, Event Management, Arts Administration, Instrument Manufacture*



*Scott Barnett (Alumni 2009) enrolled in the prestigious 'Tonmeister' Music Degree at the University of Surrey. After working at Real World Studios he is now a freelance Sound Engineer and Audio Programmer. He has worked with artists such as Peter Gabriel, Jeff Beck, Kasabian, Birdy, Beyoncé, London Grammar, Paloma Faith, George Ezra, Callum Scott and the film composer Harry Gregson-Williams.*

### Q: I don't want to do a degree in music, so should I still do it then?

Some students just wish to take music only as a 3rd (or sometimes 4th) A level, or simply because they are interested in it and/or enjoy it. Having an extra arts-based qualification on a UCAS application form provides a balanced mix of A levels. Remember any full A level counts towards your entry requirements to whichever degree course you may take and Music is highly regarded as an A level. If you are unsure, please speak to a member of the senior leadership or careers team for further advice.

## Destinations

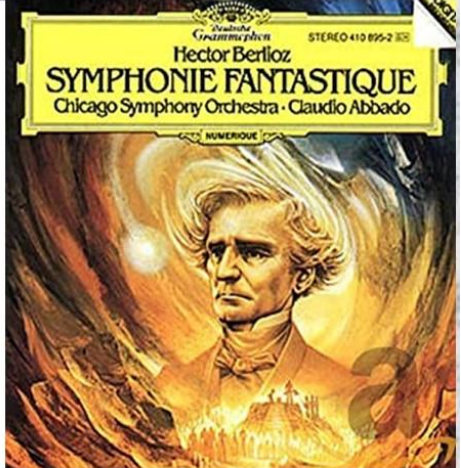
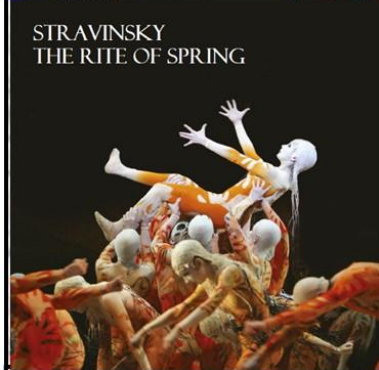
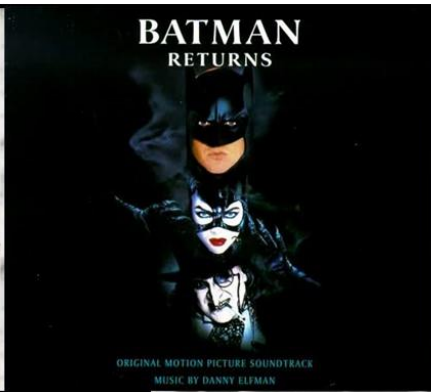
Here are some examples of where A level music students have gone to study within the last few years.

Degrees in Music	- Universities of Leeds, Huddersfield, Durham, Manchester, Liverpool
Degree in Popular Music & Recording	- Salford University
Degree in Music production	- Leeds Conservatoire
Degree in Conducting	- Helsinki University, Sibelius Academy
Degree in Dance & Musical Theatre	- Bird College
Degree in Musical Theatre	- Arts Ed London
Degree in Performing Arts	- Wilkes Academy of Performing Arts
Degree in Law	- University of Cambridge
Degree in Bio Medical Science	- University of Sheffield
Degree in Physics	- University of Chester
Degree in Economics	- University of Liverpool

### Feedback from a Recent Student

*"I really enjoyed studying music at A level. I found it changed the way I listen to music as you spend time analysing so many different kinds of music. The coursework elements were very enjoyable too as performing and composition are things I choose to do in my free time, so getting an A level from doing the things you love is fantastic! I have gone on to studying Music and Sound for Image at the University of Huddersfield, and the analysis skills I developed at A level have been invaluable to me."*





**ON WENLOCK EDGE**  
 A.E. HOUSMAN (1859-1936) R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958)  
 1. On Wenlock Edge  
*Allergo moderato*



# A Level Music

Contact for further information

Email [gcole@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:gcole@heckgrammar.co.uk)  
 Twitter [twitter.com/HGSMusicDrama](https://twitter.com/HGSMusicDrama)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5pJm4U4AFI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5pJm4U4AFI)