

# MUSIC

COURSE GUIDE 2018



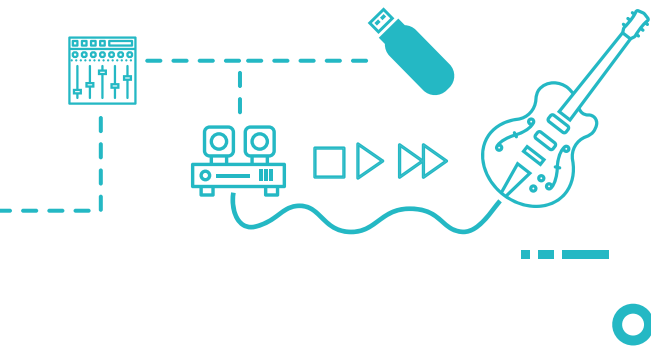
Music expresses that which  
cannot be said and on which  
it is impossible to be silent.

VICTOR HUGO



# MUSIC

Linear A Level  
Exam Board AQA



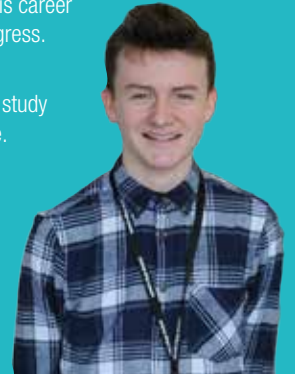
## OUR STUDENTS SAY...

*There are many opportunities within the Music department to develop as a person and musician, including bands, ensembles and frequent performances throughout the year.*

You receive instrumental lessons with dedicated teachers who have lots of experience in the industry as well as teaching. The other students in the department are friendly, supportive and everyone guides each other throughout the course. The tutor on the course is very helpful and gives advice when required. He is also able to give an insight into the music industry thanks to his career experiences. He gives up a lot of his time to help you progress.

If you work hard and are committed, then the course is a rewarding A Level to choose. After college I am hoping to study at the RNCM or in London at another Music conservatoire.

**Nathan Sharratt** Hope Academy  
Studying - Music, Computer Science, Statistics



### Why choose Music at Carmel?

Music is a subject with many transferable skills. The new AQA course allows students of different abilities and different musical experiences to achieve well and also develop as musicians. Areas of study include Film and Television, Popular Music, Jazz and World Music.

### What will the course involve?

There are three units that you complete as part of the two-year course.

**Unit 1: Performance.** This is in the form of a 10-minute performance at Grade 6 standard, which is completed in your second year of studies. The performance is supported through instrumental lessons and regular performances within the department.

**Unit 2: Composition.** You will be asked to compose two pieces of music, one to a brief and one a 'free composition'. Completion of this unit is through structured lessons, enrichment and 1:1 tutorials.

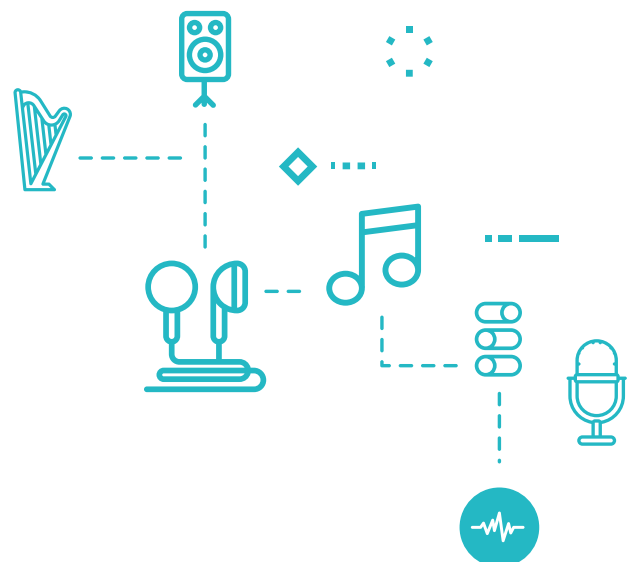
**Unit 3: Examination.** You will be asked to listen to and analyse a range of different musical styles. These include Popular Music, Jazz, Film and Television, and the styles are chosen to suit the students. There are no set works to study, instead, you learn how to analyse periods of music and general aspects of a particular style.

### How will I be assessed?

Both your performance and composition are assessed through practical activities. Your performance contributes to 35% of your qualification, whilst composition carries 25% of the marks. Your examination is completed over two and a half hours and is worth 40% of your qualification.

### Further Aspirations

Music is a well-respected A Level and highly regarded in Higher Education and in the workplace, regardless of the industry. Being able to play, compose and analyse shows dedication, creativity and ambition. Many students at college are invited to audition for conservatoires around the UK as well as top universities such as Salford, Leeds College of Music, ACM in Guildford and Huddersfield University.





## What is the Music Department like?

Students are very welcome to use the department facilities through drop in sessions, use of studio booking systems and during study periods and free time.

The Music Department boasts excellent facilities including two classrooms with a PC suite and interactive boards and televisions. There are four practice rooms, all with upright pianos, a digital studio that uses an Allen & Heath digital desk, recording studio equipped with a state of the art Allen & Heath 16 channel mixing desk and a live room with a Yamaha piano, electric piano, guitar and bass amps and a drum kit. There is also a large learning resource library including music, textbooks, CD's and DVD's.

The department makes extensive use of the Dalton Theatre where the department's Grand Piano is housed. There are termly performances including collaborative events and summer recital evenings and many more performances throughout the year.

We offer an extensive choice of Enrichment activities. These also include links with other colleges and universities throughout the North West and the UK. Enrichment includes Musical Theory classes, Rock and Pop bands, Jazz band, public and college performances and Ensemble band. There are also High Achievers sessions for students throughout the year.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the entry requirements for this course?

You will need a **GCSE grade 5 in Music and a grade 6 in English Language**. If you have not studied GCSE Music, you need to have an understanding of music both practically and theoretically and be able to read music fluently (approaching grade 5).

### How successful are Carmel's Music students?

We have a long history of students going on to Music College and University. Over the years, Carmel students have progressed onto diploma and degree courses at prestigious institutions including the RNCM, RCM, LIPA, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Birmingham Conservatoire, Huddersfield, Liverpool, Salford, Leeds, Manchester Universities to name a few.

### Why do I need Music Theory?

To enable you to understand chords, keys, treble and bass clefs, terms and different signs, i.e. to have an understanding of music.

### Is Music Theory Free?

Yes, and any student wishing to take Music will be required to study Music Theory if they haven't reached Grade 5.

### Can I take instrumental exams?

Yes and students frequently do. This is a private arrangement between you and the instrumental tutor.

### What support will I receive?

Music students receive half an hour tuition on their instrument per week free. Other support includes one-to-one tutorials throughout the week and revision classes. Free Music Theory classes are held every week for those students who have not reached Grade 5.

## Performance Opportunities & Enrichment

As part of the Music Department you will have numerous opportunities to participate in a range of activities. These include Ensemble Group, Jazz Band, Rock Group, Funk Band and Theory Enrichment. All students take part in Music Enrichment opportunities ranging from the experienced musician to those who just want to learn and have fun! Students are also encouraged to perform in regular lunchtime concerts held in the Dalton Theatre. Other events include the annual Summer Recital Evenings, Creative Arts Evening, Carmel College performances, Christmas musicals and concerts and many Liturgical Services. Furthermore, Carmel's Music Department has links with the local community and is often asked to provide music for events in the local area.

Trips are organised annually and students have attended Huddersfield University, Liverpool Philharmonic Concerts and A Level experience days organised by Salford University. Students gain valuable experience and confidence in performing and we place great importance on students' ability to give to the college and wider community.



### Meet the Tutor

Mark Lee  
Head of Department



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### More Information

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