

St Mary Redcliffe and Temple 6th Form



Year 11 into 12 transition task

Subject: Music

SMRT 6th Form takes students from a wide range of schools, who have studied a variety of GCSE syllabuses. We want to ensure that everybody is equally able to access the content of the A Level and so the following tasks give you a chance to ensure you are fully prepared.

At SMRT we have used the Eduqas syllabus at GCSE. This is accessible from the exam board website, and it would be useful for you to look at this and compare with what you have done in the past.

In order to be able to assess how each student can best prepare for the course we will be contacting students individually and setting tasks according to their needs. There are four types of skill you need to have for A Level Music and often students know a lot about, or are good at, one or two of these but have not developed the others at this stage. These areas are performing, composing, music theory and writing about music.

So that students can start to assess their own needs they should consider the following/complete the following tasks in order that we can have an email discussion about what they need to focus on before starting the course.

Performing

Students need to be able to perform to a high standard of accuracy, fluency and good communication of style. The technical difficulty of the music you play needs to be of about grade 6 standard by Term 3 of Year 13 and your standard of technique at playing/singing will determine your ability to play accurately, fluently and with expressive communication.

Students should prepare a specific piece to perform in Term 1. Through doing so they should assess their own strengths and weaknesses in terms of the four areas, accuracy, fluency, communication of their chosen style and instrument/voice specific technical ability in order to receive advice on how to improve from Music staff before starting the course.

Composing

Students need to be able to understand the concepts introduced in the theory section below but also to be able to listen to music with precision and understanding. To prepare for the level of composition required for A Level students need to develop their aural skills.

Students should make sure they understand everything in the Theory section below. We will be providing you with access to a website where you can practice and self-test your aural skills when we contact students by email.

Theory

Students need to be able to analyse a variety of pieces of music to see how they work, why various styles sound different from each other. The link below to musictheory.net takes you to a page which presents all the theory you need to start the course confidently.

Students should assess themselves against these areas ready to be able to feedback which things they understand confidently and which they need more support with.

Writing

Students need to be able to order their thoughts logically and express themselves clearly with a good written style in terms of spelling, punctuation and grammar. We would like students to read the following article about a piece we study in the course as a guide to the initial level of written work required <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asyla>

Students should write their own article on a piece of their choice for the presentation to the class outlined as a task below. They will be asked to let music staff know about their choice in advance during the email consultation.

To ensure you are ready to fully access the A Level Syllabus you should attempt this task before the start of the Autumn term :

Prepare a five to ten-minute presentation on a piece of music that you like. You may use PowerPoint and should either perform part or all of your piece live or play a recording. You should try and focus on musical aspects of your piece rather than talking too much about who the composer(s) is/are (or only talking about the lyrics, if it's a song). If you have an emotional reaction to the song try to explain how the music provokes this by analysing it. Use technical terms where you can (major/minor, modulation, ostinato etc).

In Term 1 lessons we will be analysing a variety of pieces of music to see how they work, why various styles sound different from each other and how music theory can help us understand how music works.

To support this work and get more into what this subject is about at a higher level :

You might find these websites helpful –

<http://www.musictheory.net/lessons>

<https://www.teoria.com/>

If you fancy buying a book you should read – The Rest Is Noise by Alex Ross (Picador)

This is definitely worth watching –

BBC Howard Goodall's Story of Music

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0Y6NPahIDE>