



'Bridging the Gap'

A LEVEL AND IB MUSIC





An introduction to Sixth Form Music

In order to study music at A level or IB you will need to get used to the idea of thinking about music, that is, you need to take seriously the idea of music as a subject of intellectual enquiry, as well as being something you 'do' or 'make'. Among other things, this means becoming familiar with musical repertoires outside of those related to your principal instrument. Getting to know as much music as possible should be one of your primary concerns, both before, during (and after!) your time at Taunton School; none of us knows enough music. One of the easiest and most inexpensive ways to do this is to listen to the radio or online concerts website are listed below:

These websites also have some interesting and useful information on music. Use these and other websites to inform your further research – find out about the composers, their lives, their contemporaries, their influences and those they influenced.

Here are a few to get you started:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc_radio_three

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3/classical/onmusic/>

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

<http://www.classical-music.com/>

<https://classicalexburns.com/>

This website contains links to lots of other excellent concert sites etc

https://www.thebigproject.co.uk/classical_music/index.htm#.XsZOA_7bJdg

Another aspect to be worked on is theory and aural skills – the ABRSM Grade V theory course is something we do in school but it is ideal if you have this already going into the A level course particularly.

<https://gb.abrsm.org/en/our-exams/music-theory-exams/music-theory-grade-5/>

This website is excellent for working on dictation and aural skills, as well as looking at aspects of harmony and chord progressions.

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

Using the reading list, any contextual historical reading around the subject of music; composers, periods of music; instruments etc will be very useful. I have included our own wider listening list with this document.

A level and IB specifications outline the courses and the required knowledge. We cover all of this during the academic courses at Taunton School.

A level:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/music-2016.html>

IB Music – this is an overview of the course, the specification is changing this year.

<https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/the-arts/music/>