



MUSIC: BRIDGING ACTIVITY

Studying Music at A level will encourage you to:

- engage actively in the process of music study
- develop performing skills to demonstrate an understanding of musical elements, style, sense of continuity, interpretation and expression
- develop composing skills to demonstrate the manipulation of musical ideas and the use of musical devices and conventions
- broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity
- develop as effective, independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- reflect critically and make personal judgements on your own and others' music
- appraise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and develop understanding of musical contexts and a coherent awareness of musical chronology.

Task 1.

1. Compose a signature tune for a brand-new TV dance series, which will be aired on British television in the autumn of 2020. The series will showcase professional ballroom dancers and will include a competitive element. The style should in some way reflect the flamboyant dance styles of the Big Band era. You may use any combination of electronic or acoustic instruments (no voices) and there should be a minimum of 3 different instrumental parts.
2. You will need to hand in a recording and a score for your final piece.
<http://musescore.com> – this is a free piece of software that will help you create a score and audio recording.
3. Your piece should be between a minimum of 48 bars.

Task 2

1. **Performing.** You will need to ensure you keep your instrumental practice going over the summer. When you present your A Level Recital in Year 13, you need to be a MINIMUM of Grade 6 standard. You don't need to have taken the exam, just be playing material which is that standard, and play in a way which shows you have the technical control and mastery of the instrument to cope with it. Ideally, you should be closer to Grade 7 or 8 to access the higher marks.

It is vital that you continue to receive expert instrumental teaching on a weekly basis during the whole of your A Level course, and that you support and attend Becket Keys Music Department ensembles and concerts to hone and build your skills and confidence.

Over the summer, do your best to practice your instrument for at least half an hour a day.

When planning your repertoire, begin by looking at the published lists of grade pieces for your instrument. Some of the main boards for instrumental and vocal exams are:

- [ABRSM](#)
- [Trinity Guildhall](#)
- [Rock School](#)
- [London College of Music](#) (especially for Musical Theatre)
- [Registry of Guitar Tutors](#)

Prepare a 3-4 minute performance on your chosen instrument. This can be of any genre/style and you may wish to play along with a backing track. You will perform this to the class in the first week of lessons and also perform this in the Chamber Concert in Term One.

Task. 3

Watch Howard Goodall's The Age of Discovery Part 1. Create a presentation that outlines the early development of musical history based on the information in the video. You will present this to the class when you start in September.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOY6NPahIDE>

Extension: There are 6 episodes in total, see if you can watch all 6!