



A LEVEL MUSIC SUMMER WORK 2026

WELCOME

Welcome to A Level Music at SWGS! I look forward to meeting you all as a class and you all getting to know each other. My name is Mr Fagan-King and I will be your teacher for this course.

Please find below details of the Summer Work that you should undertake as preparation for starting this course in September.

TASK 1 – MUSICAL ELEMENTS

One of the most important things you need to know to succeed in this course are the Edexcel Musical Elements and what comes under each one. If your GCSE Music exam board was not Edexcel, these may be different.

To do this, open the PDF called 'Musical Elements' and carefully go through each musical element, they are bookmarked in different sections. Take time to stop and learn each key term. If there are links to listening examples, please use them and try to identify how the musical element is being used.

TASK 2 – LISTENING

You probably do this already but it is vital for this course that you immerse yourself in all different types of Music, and not just the genres that you normally enjoy listening to. Listen to a variety of music from different styles and different times. When listening, make sure that you are actively paying attention to it. Listen to what each instrument is doing, listen to how each musical element is being used. What is it that you can hear that makes the piece belong to that particular style or time?

Don't forget that listening can also involve watching – there are many videos online of orchestras, bands and other ensembles performing music. This can enhance the listening that you do.

You might also want to start listening to the A Level set works. The Anthology CDs can also be found on the website by clicking on the links.

TASK 3 – PERFORMING

Performing is a significant proportion of this course, yet we spend much less class time on this component. The majority of the work needs to be done in lessons with your vocal/instrumental teacher, and in your own practice outside of lessons.

Use the Summer Holidays when you have some spare time to make some real progress on your voice/instrument. Practise daily and work with your teacher to move on to more advanced repertoire when ready. Once you start your A Level studies in Year 12 you will find you have much less time to practise than you previously did, so take advantage of the Summer!

TASK 4 – COMPOSING

Composing is another important part of the course, and it is important that you allow your creativity to flow. I would like you to compose a piece over the Summer. The piece should be:

- In a style/genre that best represents you musically.
- Creative and imaginative – taking risks is ok!
- Recorded in whichever way suits you – this could be score notation, another form of written notation, or in audio.
- At least 1 minute long.
- Able to be heard by the class (i.e. played out loud by you either with instruments or a computer) in our first composition lesson in September.

OTHER TASKS

As Music is such a cultural part of our everyday lives, there are plenty of other things you can do:

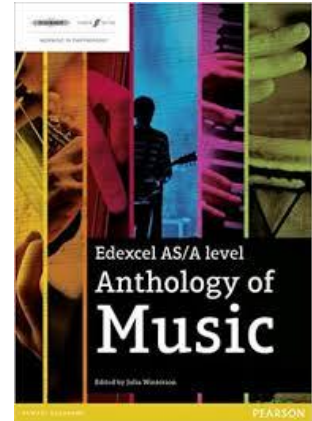
- Meet up with friends/family who are musicians and do musical things with them, like playing/singing songs together.
- Watch gigs/concerts on TV or online. Don't forget things like festivals and The Proms.
- Explore what free digital music resources there are online. Is there any Music Technology software out there that you could learn how to use?
- Learn to play a new instrument that you already have access to, for example does another family member play and instrument that they could teach you to play?

RESOURCES

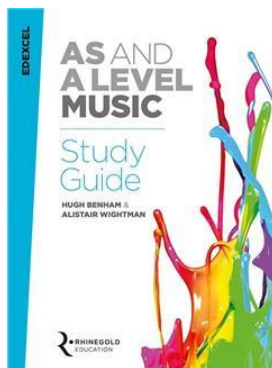
You may be wondering what resources you could buy to help you with the course.

Firstly, we will provide you with a copy of the Anthology and give you the opportunity to buy it from the school at a price lower than you can normally get it. You therefore don't need to buy it now!

Also, as mentioned above, you can download a copy of the Anthology CDs from our website.



Below is a useful study guide and revision guide combination that is worth having. If you can only buy one, get the second one (revision guide). However you do not need them to do well in this course and so it is only a suggestion.

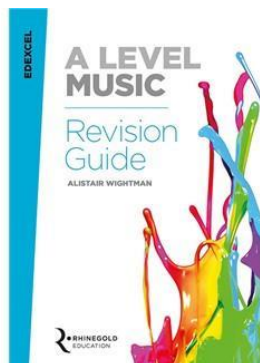


Edexcel AS and A Level Music Study Guide

Alistair Wightman, Hugh Benham

Rhinegold Education

ISBN: 9781785581694



Edexcel A Level Music Revision Guide

Alistair Wightman

Rhinegold Education

ISBN: 9781785581724