



HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



A Level Music



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Music

We have successfully run A level music for many, many years at HGS.

We are open to all students from the wider area and not just our own year 11 students. (about 60:40 balance)

We also have a huge thriving music scene at HGS.



A Level Music

2 year course

Pearson Edexcel Specification

There are 3 Components at A Level

Unit 1 - Performing (30%)

NEA Coursework performing

Total performance time of 8 minutes

Unit 2 – Composing (30%)

NEA Coursework

2 compositions lasting a total of 6 minutes.

Unit 3 – Appraising (40%)

2 hour 10 minute exam

6 areas of study with set works in each



A Level Music

Component 1 – Performing

- Total performance time of 8 minutes.
- The approximate level is about **grade 7**.
- *Therefore, suitable for Year 11 Grade 5 performers*
- Performances can be solo and/or ensemble and can include a range of pieces and styles, including the use of music technology.
- Performance opportunities will be developed during the course.
- The assessments are done in year 13.
- You can undertake the performance **as many times as you wish** and the **best** recording will be submitted.





A Level Music

Module 2 – Composing

- Two compositions lasting a total of 6 minutes
 - 1 free choice (minimum 4 minutes) – 40 marks
 - 1 set brief techniques (minimum 1 minute) – 20 marks
 - *This is either a Bach Chorale, an arrangement or a Music Technology dance remix.*
- The assessment is through NEA coursework in year 13
- Development and exercises in year 12
- A chance to explore a range of different styles including *traditional, orchestral, jazz, film, pop/rock, contemporary, music technology, recording studio*





A Level Music

Module 3 – Appraising

The exam time is 2 hours 10 minutes and is taken at the end of year 13

There will be 6 areas of study, with set works and wider listening in each

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Film Music
- Popular Music and Jazz
- Fusions
- New Directions



area of study	Set Works
Vocal Music	<p>J. S. Bach - Cantata, <i>Ein feste Burg</i>: Movements 1, 2, 8</p> <p>Vaughan Williams - On Wenlock Edge: Nos. 1, 3 and 5 (<i>'On Wenlock Edge', 'Is my team ploughing?' and 'Bredon Hill'</i>)</p>
Instrumental Music	<p>Clara Schumann - Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17: movement 1</p> <p>Berlioz - Symphonie Fantastique: Movement 1</p>
Music for Film	<p>Danny Elfman - Batman Returns: Main theme, Birth of a Penguin Part 1, Rise and fall from grace, Batman vs the Circus</p> <p>Bernard Herrmann, Psycho: Prelude, The City, Marion, The Toys, The Cellar, The Murder (Shower Scene), Discovery, Finale</p>
Popular Music and Jazz	<p>Courtney Pine - Back in the Day: Inner state (of mind), Lady Day and (John Coltrane), Love and affection</p> <p>Kate Bush - Hounds of love: 'Cloudbusting', 'And dream of sheep', 'Under Ice'</p> <p>The Beatles - Revolver: Eleanor Rigby, I'm only sleeping, Here, there and everywhere, I want to tell you and Tomorrow never knows</p>
Fusions	<p>Debussy - 'Estampes': Nos. 1 and 2 ('Pagodes' and 'La soirée dans Grenade')</p> <p>Anoushka Shankar - Breathing Under Water: 'Burn', 'Breathing Under Water', and 'Easy'</p>
New Directions	<p>Kaija Saariaho - Petals for Violoncello and Live Electronics</p> <p>Stravinsky, The Rite of Spring: Introduction, The Augurs of Spring, and Ritual of Abduction</p>



A Level Music

Resources

- Practical Music Classroom
- 32 PC Music DAW Workstation Computer Lab
- Sibelius Ultimate + Cubase 10
- Online resources
- Recording Studio + live room
- 5 Practice Rooms + store area
- Standard Music Classroom



Performance Venues

- Concert Hall with lovely acoustics for performing in
- Drama Studio for smaller performances
- Internal & External Performances with our groups





Destinations

*Some examples of where A level music students have gone within the **last few years**.*

- **Degree in Music** - at the Universities of Leeds / Huddersfield / Durham / Manchester / Sheffield / Liverpool
- University of Helsinki, Sibelius Academy – Music Degree in Conducting
- Leeds Conservatoire – Degree in Music production
- Salford University – Degree in Popular Music & Recording

- Bird College – Degree in Professional Dance & Musical Theatre
- Arts Ed London – Degree in Musical Theatre
- LiPA – Degree in Performing Arts
- York – Degree in Drama and Performance

- University of Cambridge - Degree in Law
- University of Chester - Degree in Physics
- University of Liverpool - Degree in Economics
- University of Sheffield - Degree in Biomedical Sciences



Career Opportunities & Higher Education

Some examples of associated careers include -

Performer or Composer (pop, classical, jazz, theatre, etc.), TV/Radio Industry, Military Bandsman (RAF, Marines etc.), Teaching & Education, Music Therapist, TV/Film Composer, Internet & Media Publishing, Recording Engineer, Audio Engineering, Audio editing & Production, Music Software Development, Video Games industry, Music Librarian, Publishing & Editing, Music Journalist, Music Arranging, Event Management, Arts Administration, Instrument Manufacture



*Kasia (2015) – Arts Ed London in Musical Theatre
– now a performer and specialist singing coach.*



*Matthew (2017) – studying conducting at the
renowned Sibelius University in Helsinki*



*Scott (2009) – enrolled in the prestigious
'Tonmeister Degree' at the University of Surrey
Freelance Sound Engineer –
Peter Gabriel to Jeff Beck and Birdy to Beyoncé!*



Student feedback from two of our previous A level music cohort

Alex Smith - Degree in Music at Huddersfield University

"I really enjoyed studying music at A level. I found it changed the way I listen to music as you spend time analysing so many different kinds of music. The coursework elements were very enjoyable too as performing and composition are things I choose to do in my free time, so getting an A level from doing the things you love is fantastic! I am now studying music and sound for Image at Huddersfield University, and the analysis skills I developed at A level have been invaluable to me."



Megan Dransfield- Degree in Professional Dance & Musical Theatre at Bird Conservatoire

I chose music A-level to challenge the way I approached music, and I can safely say it did! I gained a new appreciation for so many different styles, and how much contributed to the overall effect of a piece. I've found the skills I developed in the two years at A-level invaluable in my study at Bird College. I am able to pick music apart with a much higher depth of understanding, and so make more informed and intelligent choices in my performances. I am now pursuing the career of my dreams!

www.megdarcy.com/reel



Reuben Fitzsimons - Currently studying for a Degree in Music at Durham University

After completing his A levels at HGS, Reuben obtained the Schon Music Scholarship from Durham University, where is now studying for a degree in music. He recently wrote to say he is 'delighted with his course and can't thank everyone at HGS for all the support, especially the music staff'.



A Level Music at HGS

Over the previous 3 years = almost 100% A* to B grades

(+just one C grade!)

- Small groups of about 5 students in a class - great for personalised support
- Two dedicated full time and 1 part time music staff to teach and support you.
- Access to support from 6 peripatetic staff – all with various and contrasting musical music backgrounds ~ including Classical, Jazz, Choral and Pop specialists

- Support with auditions and UCAS entry for University
- Lots of Trips! (including external concerts, productions, workshops etc)
- Possibility to take a lead with or develop various music groups

- Dedicated A level music study room & recording studio

- Edexcel course – flows from GCSE to A level (*any GCSE exam board*)
- Available to non-GCSE Music students if minimum grade 5 performer
- Edexcel course – perform as many times as you wish, rather than a one chance final performance.

HGS A Level Music Student?

- We are looking for creative students with a passion for all things music.
- If you enjoy performing, composing, arranging and interpreting music, then you're the students we want.
- You need to be diligent, enthusiastic and driven along with committed to our wider HGS music scene.
- *We are keen for our A Level students to take on leadership and mentoring roles to enhance and develop their HGS experience. Absolutely not compulsory, but many students enjoy these*



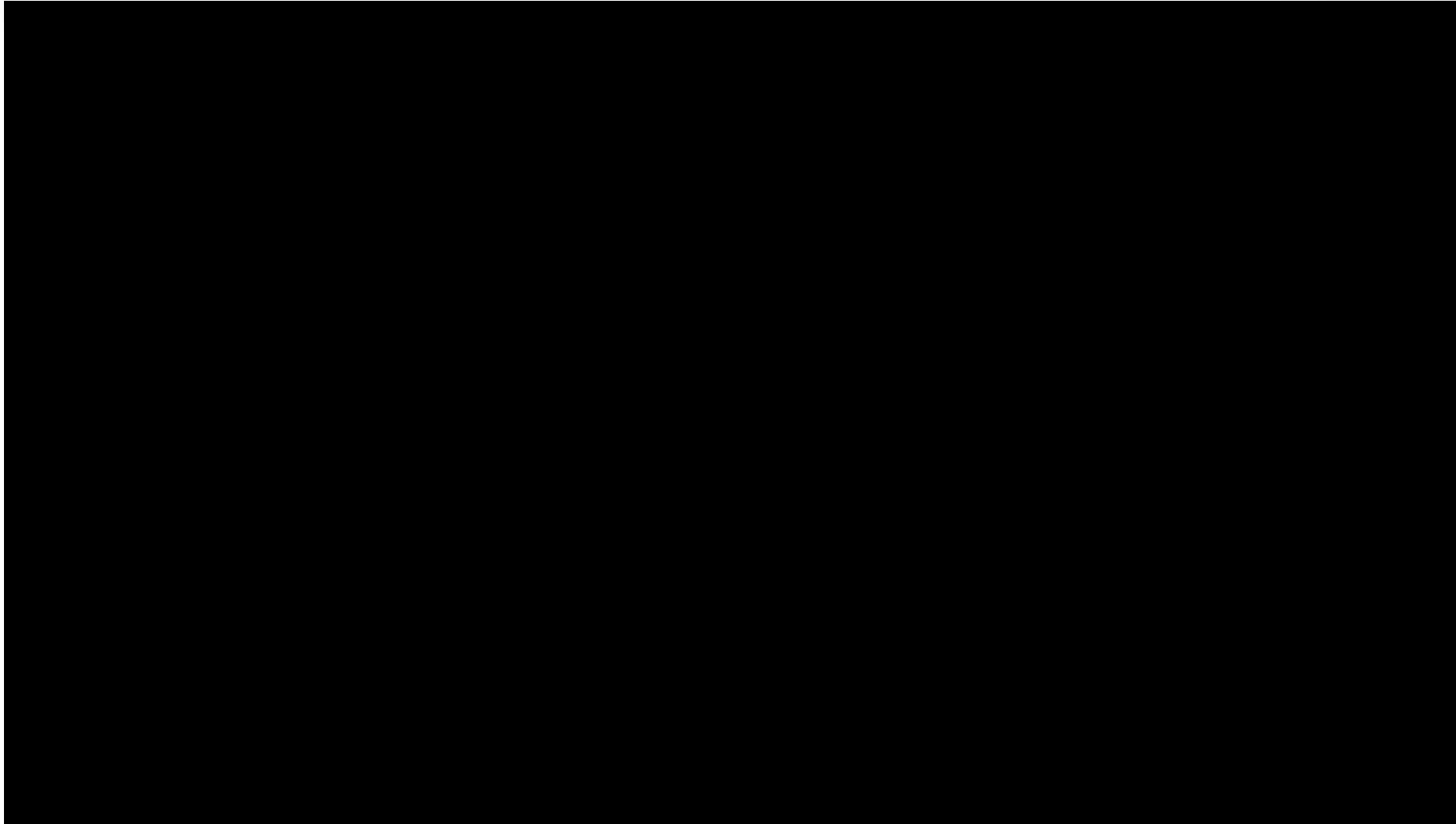
HGS Music Extra-Curricular

- **Concert Orchestra** – about 50 musicians, majority are grade 5+ standard
- **Soul Band** – including lots of external gigs (Marsden JF, GYS)
- **Senior Choir - SATB**
- **Senior Girls Chamber Choir**
- **Percussion, String, Brass, Woodwind Groups**
- **Junior Ensembles** – older students can lead if they wish
- **Rock & Pop Club**
- **Music Tech Recording Club** (y11-13)

- **Full School Musical** most years with live pit band of our own students



Last 4 - Addams Family, Grease, We Will Rock You, Little Shop Horrors



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5pJm4U4AFI>

The HGS Sixth Form Experience

- Heckmondwike Grammar School Sixth Form is a highly academic institution: we specialise in the delivery of A Level qualifications.
- Our goal at Heckmondwike Grammar School is to provide the environment, opportunities and experiences that you need to reach your goals.
- We are friendly, welcoming and very supportive to all our students. We have about 450 students in our sixth form.
- Highly competitive selective grammar school established in 1898 with over 125 years of heritage. Outstanding reputation in the wider community
- Our motto 'Nil Sine Labore' (nothing without work)

The Sixth Form Experience

Exclusive use of the £1.5 million development Jo Cox Centre. Opened January 2019

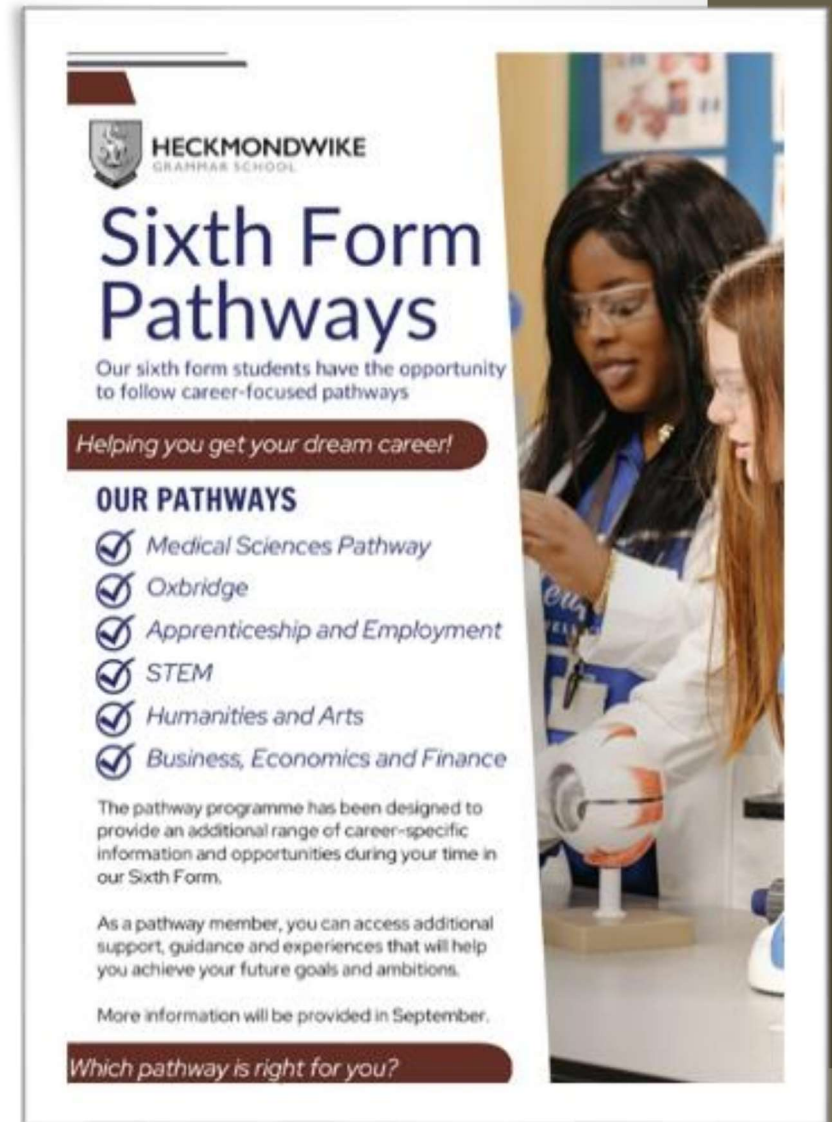


The Sixth Form Experience

Sixth Form Pathway Programme

All Sixth Form Students at Heckmondwike Grammar School have the opportunity to follow career-focused pathways.

Each pathway provides students with a range of career-specific information, events, trips, visits, guest speakers and additional opportunities during their time in our Sixth Form.



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Sixth Form Pathways

Our sixth form students have the opportunity to follow career-focused pathways

Helping you get your dream career!

OUR PATHWAYS

- ✓ Medical Sciences Pathway
- ✓ Oxbridge
- ✓ Apprenticeship and Employment
- ✓ STEM
- ✓ Humanities and Arts
- ✓ Business, Economics and Finance

The pathway programme has been designed to provide an additional range of career-specific information and opportunities during your time in our Sixth Form.

As a pathway member, you can access additional support, guidance and experiences that will help you achieve your future goals and ambitions.

More information will be provided in September.

Which pathway is right for you?

The HGS Enrichment Programme

- Sixth Form students have time within the school day on Wednesdays when staff (or students) lead or develop specialised programmes to equip them for University, apprenticeships and job interviews
- From Law Society, to Clinical Psychology; from the Student Newspaper, to our Radio station; from Musical Theatre, to Football League...you use it to add to your development



2023 A Level Examination Results (all subjects)

- 79% of our recent A Level grades were A* - C (71% of these grades were A* - B)
- 220 A* and A grades all together
- 40 students achieved 3 or more grade A* or A
- 3% of our cohort progressed to Oxbridge Universities (National average from post-16 providers = 1.5%)



Applications and entry requirements

- Applications are available to any student, from any school and any area.

#For September 2024 the entry it was -

- GCSE Grade 5 in mathematics
- GCSE Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature
- Achieving at least 3 other GCSEs at grade 6 or above
+ some subject specific requirements

Applying via 'Get Into' = September - December



Course Entry Requirements

Subject	Entry Requirements
Art & Design	6 or Merit Art or portfolio of high quality work
Biology	6 Biology or 66 Science and 6 Mathematics
Business *	6 or Merit Business (if studied)
Chemistry	6 Chemistry or 66 Science and 6 Mathematics
Computer Science *	6 Computer Science (if studied) and 6 Mathematics
Design Technology	6 Design Technology
Drama & Theatre *	6 or Merit Drama, or evidence of involvement in drama if not studied at GCSE
Economics *	6 Mathematics
English Language	6 English Language
English Literature	6 English Literature
French	6 French
Geography	6 Geography
History	6 History
Mathematics	6 Mathematics
Further Mathematics **	8 Mathematics
Music	6 Music or Grade 5 Voice or Instrument
Physical Education	6 or Merit PE, or evidence of club level involvement in sport
Physics	6 Physics or 66 Science and 6 Mathematics
Politics *	General entry criteria apply
Psychology *	6 Psychology (if studied)
Religious Studies *	6 Religious Education (if studied)
Sociology *	6 Sociology (if studied)
Spanish	6 Spanish



Music Entry Requirements

For September 2024 entry

- GCSE Grade 5 in mathematics
- GCSE Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature
- Achieving at least 3 other GCSEs at grade 6 or above including GCSE Music at Grade 6 or above*

* Alternatively, we will accept students without GCSE music if they are Grade 5+ on their instrument or voice.

(ABRSM, Trinity, RockSchool etc..)

#As always – subject to confirmation for 2025 entry



Please ask any questions or take an
information booklet



<https://www.heckgrammar.co.uk>