

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MUSIC

Q 1. Can you take A-level Music if I haven't done GCSE Music?

Yes, we will always have a few students taking A-level Music who didn't have the opportunity to take GCSE Music at school. However, we would expect that you have achieved ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory in lieu of GCSE Music.

Q 2. Do I need to be able to read music to take A-level Music?

Yes – reading music is vital for the analysis, theory and composition elements of the course. We will be sight reading music in class from the very first lesson.

Q 3. What kind of software do we use in A-level Music?

On our iMacs we run Sibelius, Logic & Garageband. Some students choose to use other platforms on their own computers.

Q 4. What kind of extra-curricular music can I do?

We run every kind of ensemble catering for all instrumentalists, singers, rappers and producers exploring a diverse range of musical styles. There are further details on each of the groups in the music brochure, which you can download [here](#). Enrichment groups work towards performances in college, and external performances at venues such as RNCM and Band on the Wall.

Q 5. Do I have to take A-level Music to take part in extra-curricular music making?

No – all enrichment groups are open to all students at Loreto College. There are many groups where most of the musicians are not A-level music students, and many students from across college also take 1-2-1 instrumental/vocal lessons in college.

Q 6. What types of music do we study in A-level Music?



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The main areas of study we look at in class for the written exam are; 'The Development of the Symphony', 'Musical Theatre' and 'Music Into the 21st Century'. However, as many areas of the course are personalised to you, we will look at numerous other styles and musicians when we study composition techniques and your instrumental/vocal teacher will explore music relevant to your tastes and strengths as a performer.

Q 7. Do I need to have taken ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory to take A-level Music?

Only if you have not taken GCSE Music. For those students who start A-level Music without ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory, there is a separate class dedicated to achieving the qualification.

Q 8. Will I get 1-2-1 instrumental/vocal tuition as part of A-level Music?

Yes – all A-level Music students are provided with weekly 30 minute lessons on an instrument/voice of their choice. Some students will choose to take their 1st study instrument/voice in college, whereas as some students will continue with a teacher outside of college and take up a 2nd instrument/voice in college.

