



# A LEVEL MUSIC

2025-26



THE  
PORTSMOUTH  
GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL

## Course Outline

The course is demanding and rigorous for the more advanced musician and offers pupils a broad and varied curriculum, allowing musical development in the three core areas: performing, composing and listening/appreciation. We teach the Eduqas specification as it provides a broad foundation in the Western Classical Tradition, Music in the early twentieth century as well as more contemporary styles such as Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre or Jazz.

## A Level External Assessment

In addition to the examination (40%), all pupils will be assessed in both performing and composing (60%). However, the specification allows learners to specialise in either performance (to a visiting examiner) or composition (portfolio). Option A allows learners to specialise in Performance: 35% performing (10–12-minute recital) and 25% composing (a portfolio of two compositions). Option B allows learners to specialise in Composition: 35% composing (a portfolio of three compositions) and 25% performing (6–8-minute recital).

Sixth Form Instrumental Music Scholarships and Choral Scholarships, linked with Portsmouth Cathedral, are offered each year. Further details are available from the Admissions Office.

## Entry Requirements

Pupils normally have a Grade 7 or above in GCSE Music (or equivalent) and will need to be performing at Grade 7 Standard or above for their recital at A Level. If this is not the case, an audition or performing exam certificates are required to ascertain suitability for the course. You must have a keen interest in listening to and reading about a wide range of styles and genres. We do expect all our A Level musicians to be part of the Chamber Choir and another instrumental ensemble as appropriate.

# Beyond the Classroom

Pupils are expected to take an active part in the musical life of the school. With a team of 30 teachers, there are many rehearsals that take place each week at lunchtime, before school and after school. A large number of Sixth Form pupils participate in these activities, including the Chamber Choir, Symphony Orchestra, Concert Band, Big Band and Jazz groups. Pupils perform regularly in concerts and recitals in Portsmouth and further afield, and in the annual school musical. Many also enter national and local music competitions. Music tours are taken regularly, with recent tours including trips to Spain, Venice, Prague and Croatia. These activities in school are complemented by a thriving series of concert trips, concert performances and regular workshops led by some of the country's finest professional musicians and ensembles.

# University Courses and Professions that require the Subject

Many of our pupils have gone on to study Music at universities such as Cambridge, Oxford, King's College London, Manchester, Cardiff and Leeds. Others have found Music A Level a useful partner to both Science and Arts subjects and have gone on to study a breadth of degree subjects including Law, Engineering, Biochemistry and Medicine. Additionally, pupils have successfully auditioned for Choral and Organ Scholarships with the support of the Music Department.



## **More Information**

- Head of Academic Music, Miss S Heath: T 023 9236 4257 E [s.heath@pgs.org.uk](mailto:s.heath@pgs.org.uk)
- Director of Music, Mr A Goodwin: T 023 9236 4226 E [a.goodwin@pgs.org.uk](mailto:a.goodwin@pgs.org.uk)

You can also find more information on the exam board's website: [www.eduqas.co.uk](http://www.eduqas.co.uk)