Welcome to Music!!

These transition tasks are **optional**. They are designed to help you feel confident starting the course. You do not need to do all of them. Pick the ones that you think will most help you progress skills for the A Level.

We will happily take these in and feedback on them in September to help you make a fabulous start to the course. There are multiple activities here for you to choose from – afterall, Music is a very varied course skills wise!!

**Option 1: Basic Theory**

You will need to understand the basics of theory.

One option is to have a go at the free Open University Basic Theory (approx. grade 1-3) course, for which you can print out a certificate of completion.

A quicker alternative if you are a bit more confident is the following page on which you should make yourself familiar with the topics in the following sections:

[Musictheory.net](https://www.musictheory.net/)

The Basics – all sections

Rhythm and Metre – all sections

Scales and Key Signatures – all sections

Intervals – all sections

The first two lessons from Chords, Diatonic Chords and the first from Chord Progressions would be a bonus

**Option 2:**

Read through the pages on this website called A Short History of Music and create a set of thinking maps to show your understanding. Remember – summarise, don’t copy!!

[Short History of Music « www.ALevelMusic.com](https://alevelmusic.com/4-short-history-of-music/)

**Option 3: Vocabulary**

[Revise GCSE vocabulary](https://alevelmusic.com/9-gcse-revision-ridgewood/) – as all of these are on the A Level syllabus, plus some new ones.

Any of these you do not know can be looked up on [Focus on Sound](https://portal.focusonsound.com/) in the dictionary section – log in using your school microsoft account – we've already paid for membership for you.

**Option 4: Listening**

Listen to music that you are going to be studying on the course and try to create a MAD T SHIRT tree map of what you hear.

* Symphonies from the Classical and Romantic periods
* Music Theatre pieces by Rodgers, Bernstein, Sondheim, Schönberg, Lloyd Webber, Schwartz

**Option 5: Performance**

Make sure you don’t neglect your playing during this break. If you are having online lessons with your teacher, then that will obviously keep you going. If you are not, I suggest you do at least some of the tasks below to keep yourself in practice.

Polish up a piece you are already working on and video it. You could then share it with your friends and family. In due course, I will ask you to perform in school (either school concerts, Rock ‘n’ Raise, or a teatime/lunchtime concert). You might find a recorded accompaniment on Youtube for pieces that are very regularly played for grades etc.

Resurrect an older piece that you really enjoyed. You will be able to play it better now you are a bit more advanced. Listen to some performances of the piece on Apple Music/Spotify/Youtube. What do you like about these performances? Is there anything you can incorporate. Again, you could video your performance.

Look at the graded lists for the level at which you are currently playing. Listen to the pieces and choose one to learn from scratch. You can use recorded performances to help you learn the piece and decide how to play it.