



MUSIC

Advanced General Certificate of Education (AGCE)

WHY MUSIC?

The opportunities for students of Music have continued to develop over the past decade, perhaps nowhere more so than in the Midlands.

As Birmingham continues to be promoted as the nation's "Second City" and attracts major Arts organisations to the area, so the West Midlands is becoming recognised as a centre for Culture and the Arts.

The Music course offered at Thomas Telford School is designed to provide students with a wide range of skills and experiences. Practically, students will improve their performance ability up to Grade 7 standard or higher, which could allow more able students entry to Music College. All students will study composition from traditional harmony through to the more modern styles of popular music with possibilities opening up for gifted composers to take this further at Music College or University.

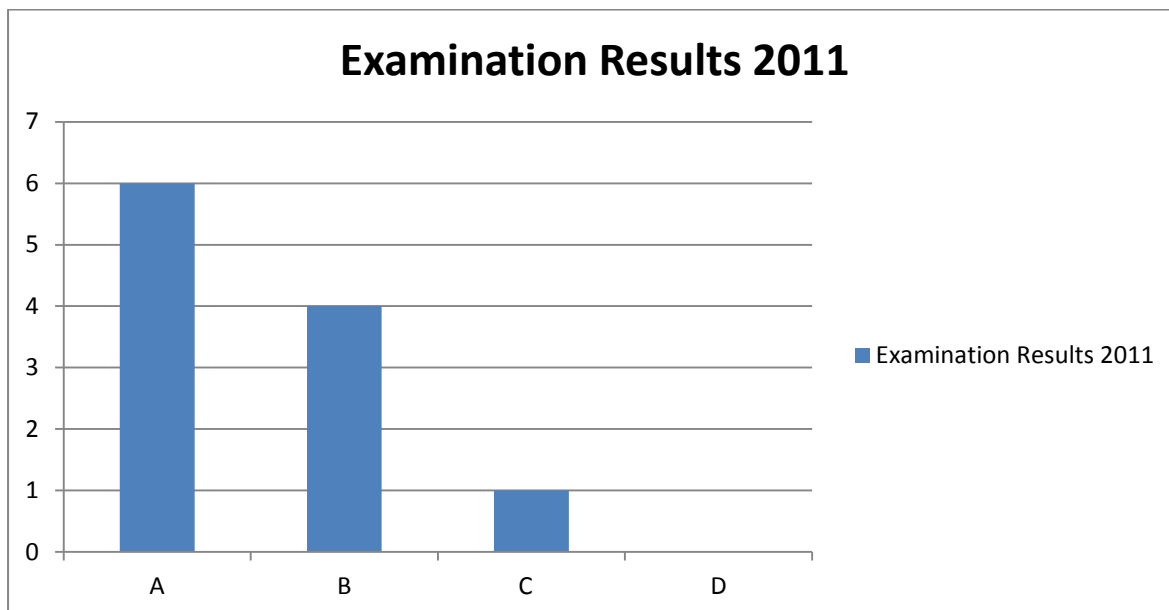
The Music Industry is vast and needs talented performers, composers and technicians to support it. Job opportunities exist in all spheres of Music from classical to contemporary popular music and as a result a wide variety of University courses are on offer depending on individuals strengths.

Progression - Composer/Arranger (film, video games, orchestral etc), Performer/Musical Director (classical, theatre, rock/pop etc), Music Writer/Journalist, Music Teacher, Arts Administration.

Trips - Performance Tours (Concert Band and Choir) to European destinations France, Germany, Holland) are organised for Easter holidays and have in recent years cost a maximum of £500 all inclusive for 4 nights.

SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 GCSEs (Grades A* - C)
- Grade B in GCSE Music
- Good keyboard skills or Grade 5 standard on another instrument



COURSE DETAILS

Edexcel Syllabus: 6803

AGCE SINGLE AWARD You will study six Units as follows:

Performance (*Coursework externally moderated*)

This unit enables students to develop their skills in performing. Students will perform one or more pieces as a soloist and/or as part of an ensemble as part of a 5-6 minute performance. It is recommended that students perform at Grade 6 standard for this unit.

Composing (*Examination externally assessed*)

In this unit students are studying the art of composition. As an externally marked examination they will complete one three-minute composition based on four composition briefs set by Edexcel.

Students will also provide information that could be used for a CD sleeve to accompany their composition. These elements of coursework are to be completed in controlled conditions.

Understanding Music (*Examination externally assessed*)

Unit 3 will be examined in May and there will be one 2-hour examination comprising 3 sections. The examination will assess students aural understanding of studied works, of differing musical styles and will also assess their understanding of chords and musical lines.



Extended Performance (*Coursework externally moderated*)

All students are required to submit a 12-15 minute recording which may comprise solos and/or ensemble performances. The performances are to be given before an audience. It is recommended that students perform at Grade 7 standard for this unit.

Composition and Technical Study (*Examination externally assessed*)

In preparing externally marked coursework, students have three options: (a) completing 2 three-minute compositions based on four composition briefs set by Edexcel; (b) completing two Technical Studies from a choice of three or (c) completing one composition and one Technical Study. Both elements of this unit must be completed in controlled conditions.

Further Musical Understanding (*Examination externally assessed*)

Assessment is through a 2-hour examination paper comprising three sections. Students will be assessed on their aural analysis skills and their understanding of set works, analysing works from a written score.