

What our students say about studying Music

"Lessons are delivered in a dynamic range of ways including learning through discussion and group work alongside conventional teaching methods."

"Studying Music at Pate's, we benefit from small class sizes."

"I chose to study music because it has a fantastic department that is well-integrated into the school and is a subject that combines academia and creative thinking in a unique way."

"A Level music has been a great experience, and I always find myself looking forward to my next lesson. With the greater level of independence that comes with starting sixth form, music has given me the chance to explore and enjoy new genres that I may never would have if I hadn't taken the course. Furthermore, with recitals at the end of every term, my performance skills have improved significantly and my confidence with it. I also love the variety in lessons – from a lesson based on jazz, to the next being jamming in a practice room."

"I am currently aiming to eventually work as a video game music composer, so Music A Level is definitely a step in the right direction."

"There's lots of support outside of lessons. Extra revision sessions are available for the exam portion of the course, and performance opportunities are offered through a variety of extra-curricular music groups."

"Music is very important to Pate's as a school, with House Music being such a big event and with so much extra-curricular music going on, so doing music here can really help you get involved in lots of aspects of the school's community. The department has great facilities, including access to lots of nice rehearsal spaces. Music is taught well here, and I've always been given useful feedback on how I can improve my work."

"Having an understanding of the Western Classical tradition as well as Jazz and the theory that comes with that gives me a more grounded approach to when I write my own music, which is something I'd like to do in the future. Career-wise I'd love to become a performer of music, singing or playing the clarinet or piano, so obviously having a greater understanding of the history of the music that I'm playing is really important."

"Smaller class size means that you can bond with everyone in your class, but while it may be small, everybody who takes music is totally into it, and really talented, so you can strike up scratch ensembles whenever you feel like it!"

"The course seems really rounded and touches on elements of music that often go unnoticed, like the roots of Jazz or the very early symphonists. There's also massive scope for individuality, in the very independent nature of the coursework, for example you can play whatever you want in the performing section, whether its heavy metal or Telemann's table music, and I like that."

“The extra-curricular side of music is simply amazing – there’s so many ensembles to join, and at such high levels of playing, and joining can really help your within-course work by introducing you to new music and developing theory skills. Occasionally external speakers are invited to give talks – for instance on temperament, or baroque instruments.”

“I would recommend Music A Level at Pate’s because it’s really fun! Even when analysing what could be considered to be something a little turgid, the lessons are delivered so interestingly that it itself becomes interesting. We are able to perform pieces we are studying in the lesson right there and then – which is both really fun and helpful! It also gives you an incredibly broad knowledge of many facets of music, which is both useful for University Challenge and general life.”

“My best lesson would definitely be one where we study a piece, and then attempt to perform it. For example, while studying chorale counterpoint in year 12 we sung many chorales (extremely badly) to help understand the intricacies of voice leading – and then theory becomes interesting. Or should I say, even more interesting.”

“I chose to study Music A Level because of the vast skills that play a role in it; like working in a group to analysing music. It also includes the reason music is what it is today, by delving into music history. I knew that taking music would help aid my skills in all aspects of life and a future career, even if I am not to be a musician.”

“The teachers are phenomenal, as they never leave a student behind, adapting our knowledge no matter what syllabus our GCSE music. Additionally, if you’re planning to take A level Music you will have a relatively small class, meaning that teachers will know exactly where you stand and what you need to improve on.”