

GETTING AHEAD



ALTON

Start to develop skills that are relevant to your course before you join HSDC this September!

Music – A Level

In order to help prepare you for the different elements of this course, we have compiled a checklist of tasks we would like you to complete before you start. Alongside this, we have created a list of great musical resources for you to get stuck into and explore.

Performance

- Keep practising your instrument. Regular, short practises are the best for keeping to an effective practise schedule.
- Set yourself the task of learning one new piece ready to perform in September.
- Keep practising and perfecting pieces you already know.

Theory

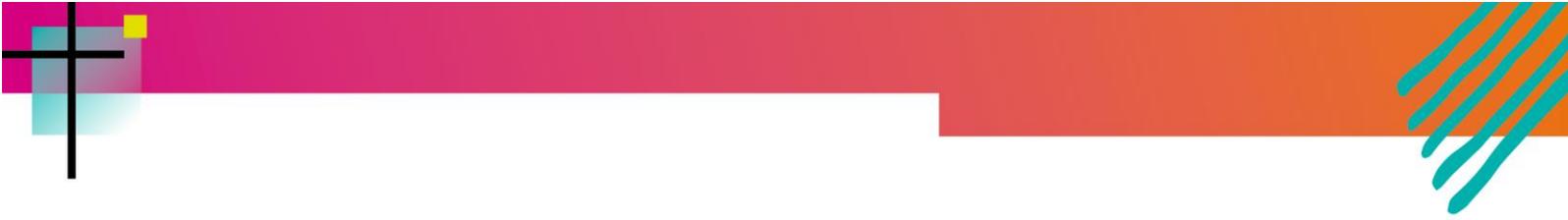
A solid foundation in music theory is so important for A Level Music. Make sure that your theory knowledge is up to Grade 5 level. You should be able to answer yes to the following statements:

Music Theory Checklist	Yes / No
I can confidently read music in both treble and bass clef	
I know all the major and minor key signatures	
I know the names of the degrees of the scale	
I can work out the notes of primary triads in any key (tonic, dominant, subdominant.)	
I know the difference between common and simple time signatures	
I can identify the principal note values (crotchet, quaver etc.)	

Date	Piece	Composer	Context (what period/genre is the piece/song from? Any interesting facts?)	Musical Observations (what interests you about this piece? Think structure/harmony/melody/instrumentation etc.)

We look forward to seeing you all in September!

For further information about your College and being a student at HSDC, please visit hsdc.ac.uk/Alton



--	--	--	--	--

Music History

Knowing your composers/genres/periods of music is a great start for studying music at college level. Classic FM is a good place to start. You can listen to various programmes on their website.

Listening

The most important part of studying music at any level is listening. And not just listening, but listening actively: thinking critically about the music you are experiencing. The main task we would like you to undertake is to fill out a 'Listening Log', to be completed anytime you actively listen to a piece of music. You can use our template below or you can create your own.

Resources

- Online Practise:
<http://www.musictheoryvideos.com/not-sure-where-to-start/> (links to online video resources relevant to this subject) and <https://www.teoria.com>
- Music Podcast:
<https://musicstudent101.com> (Episodes 2-12)

We look forward to seeing you all in September!

For further information about your College and being a student at HSDC, please visit hcdc.ac.uk/Alton