



carmel
college

Inspiring minds.
Shaping futures.

MUSIC & MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

COURSE GUIDE 2017

“Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.”

VICTOR HUGO

Music

Exam Board PEARSON

Why choose Music at Carmel?

At Carmel we aim to provide an environment where musicians can blossom and develop their particular strengths and talents. We encourage students to appreciate a variety of styles of music at a deeper level. We believe it is important to provide the basis of a life-long love for music through a course which is varied, challenging and, above all, enjoyable.

What will the course involve?

You will improve your skills in performing and composing in a range of styles and will listen to a wide variety of music and develop a more informed appreciation of how and why music was written and performed. There are three units: Performing, Composition and Developing Musical Understanding. You can sing or perform on any musical instrument and you will have the opportunity to take part in ensemble and solo performances. You will learn the craft of notated composition. Orchestration and harmony skills as well as imaginative detail are developed.

You will be expected to develop and improve listening and analytical skills through the study of set works. Lessons will cover the set works, composition and listening. Performance is carried out in the Lunchtime Concerts in the Dalton Theatre and in the one-to-one lessons with the instrumental tutor.

How will I be assessed?

60% of the subject is coursework based and this consists of two equally weighted components. The 'Performing' component requires a public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital. The 'Composing' component consists of one externally set brief and one either free composition or also to a set brief. The other 40% of your grade will be determined by an examination, which will test your skills in appraising music.

Where does the course lead?

There are many reasons why you might want to study Music at Carmel College. Some students prepare to go to Music College or University to study Music; others see music as an academic qualification recognised by most universities as part of the entry requirements for almost any degree course.



Our students say...

Carmel has a thriving music community with several opportunities to perform.

This ranges from the Carmel Music Company, to the samba band. There is also a free half hour instrument/ vocal lesson with a dedicated peripatetic teacher. Your music class genuinely becomes like a second family to you, supporting you in every way, as do the tutors. The course is challenging but with the help of your peers and tutors, it becomes easy and accelerates the growth of your musicianship. Your sights are broadened by the course and content you cover, making you realise that music is much larger than you first thought. After college I hope to study conducting and composing at a royal conservatoire eventually leading me into a career in conducting and musical direction of West End shows.



Aaron Godfrey

St Edmund Arrowsmith, Whiston

Studying:

Music, Music Technology, Law

Music Technology

Exam Board PEARSON

Why choose Music Technology at Carmel?

Our Music Department has excellent facilities here at Carmel for studying Music Technology. Students have access to our recording studio, housing a wide range of industry standard recording equipment. All students get unlimited access to the facilities outside of lesson times. If you enjoy creating music using technology and exploring the development of music technology of the recent past through popular music, then this is the course for you.

What will the course involve?

This is a course for musicians wishing to develop practical skills and theoretical knowledge in Music Technology. The traditional music skills of listening and analysing, arranging and composition are placed in a contemporary technological and musical context. Lessons cover listening and technological issues as well as computer/practical work. Broadly speaking you will study:

- Computer-based sequencing and music production techniques;
- Sound recording;
- Arranging and composing using music technology;
- Listening and analysis (pop music and jazz).

How will I be assessed?

60% of the subject is examination based and will test your analysing and producing skills. The other 40% is coursework based and is separated into such areas as Recording and Production Techniques, Principles of Sound and Audio Technology, and Development of Recording and Production Technology.

Where does the course lead?

A Level Music Technology is a rigorously academic and practical qualification, widely accepted by universities for entry to a range of courses. It is especially useful for any student considering a career or undergraduate studies in any of the performing arts, sound engineering or music production.

What is the Music department Like?

Students are very welcome to use the music department's fantastic facilities. The department prides itself on the range of equipment available and the opportunities afforded to our students in enhancing their learning experience.

Carmel's Music department comprises of Practice Rooms with upright pianos, a principal Teaching Room and a Computer Music teaching suite. This is in addition to a Music Technology/Recording Studio featuring a state-of-the-art digital mixer as well as a Pre-production Suite all furnished with Cubase and Sibelius software. There is also a 'live' room for recording work and an industry standard recording studio. The department also has a good stock of musical instruments including bass, electric and acoustic guitars and drum kit, plus a variety of brass and woodwind instruments which are regularly used by our students. The department and the Learning Resource Area have a large selection of music and music technology-related textbooks and other resources including CDs/ DVDs. Furthermore, the department makes extensive use of the college's Dalton Theatre which is ideal for concerts and other events. Indeed the department's baby grand piano is housed in the theatre and is regularly used by staff and students alike.

Our students say...

Since joining Carmel I have become much more confident especially within the Music department.

Studying Music Technology not only develops your music skills whilst sequencing but also develops new skills like recording and setting up. In Music Technology you will often have to work in a team and with other musicians, developing your communication, leadership and team building skills. There is a large variety of enrichment opportunities within the department such as Samba, Theory and the Carmel Music Company. Enrichment in music helps develop your skills and helps with work in class. The Music Technology tutors are extremely supportive and are willing to help out with gigs, work and anything else you require assistance with. After leaving Carmel I would like to attend university to further my Music Tech skills and then later pursue a career in live sound.



Ellie Cummins
De La Salle

Studying:

Music Technology, Music, English Literature





What are the entry requirements for these courses?

You will need a **GCSE grade B in Music**. If you have not studied the GCSE, you need to have an understanding of music both practically and theoretically and be able to read music fluently (approaching Grade 5).

Meet the Tutor

Mark Lee
Head of Department

Frequently Asked Questions

How successful are Carmel's Music students?

We have a long history of students going on to Music College and University. Over the years, Carmel students have progressed onto diploma and degree courses at prestigious institutions including the RNCM, RCM, LIPA, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Birmingham Conservatoire, Huddersfield, Liverpool, Salford, Leeds, Manchester Universities to name a few.

Why do I need Music Theory?

To enable you to understand chords, keys, treble and bass clefs, terms and different signs, i.e. to have an understanding of music.

Is Music Theory Free?

Yes, and any student wishing to take Music will be required to study Music Theory if they haven't reached Grade 5.

Can I take instrumental exams?

Yes and students frequently do. This is a private arrangement between you and the instrumental tutor.

What support will I receive?

Music students receive half an hour tuition on their instrument per week free. Other support includes one-to-one tutorials throughout the week and revision classes. Free Music Theory classes are held every week for those students who have not reached Grade 5.

Performance Opportunities & Enrichment

The Music Department offers numerous opportunities for students to participate in a range of musical activities. These include Carmel Choir, Woodwind Group, Brass Group, Drum Kit Enrichment, Guitar Enrichment, Studio Enrichment/Recording your own song, Singing Enrichment. Currently there are approximately 90 students who take up a Music Enrichment activity, from the experienced musician to the student who just wants to learn and have some fun! Students are also encouraged to perform in the weekly lunchtime concert held in the Dalton Theatre. Other events include the annual Solo Performance Evenings, Creative Arts Evening, as well as the many Liturgical Services. Furthermore, Carmel's Music Department is asked on occasion to perform at events in the local area.

Trips are organised periodically and students have attended the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival and the Liverpool Philharmonic Concerts, as well as A Level Study Days at Liverpool Hope University. Students gain valuable experience and confidence in performing and we place great importance on students' ability to give to the college and the wider community.

Over the past few years, links with universities have been made, including visits to Huddersfield, Salford and Liverpool Hope.



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