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STUDYING  
**MUSIC**  
AT  
**GREENHEAD  
COLLEGE**



# WELCOME TO MUSIC AT GREENHEAD COLLEGE

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Music is at the heart of College life at Greenhead and as a student, you have a huge range of opportunities available to you. You have a flexible choice of courses to choose from and we boast a wide range of opportunities to get involved with a variety of enrichment ensembles and performance opportunities.

There are currently over 100 students studying on music courses at Greenhead and many more involved in music enrichment. We encourage students from all three of our courses and from our enrichment programme to play, record and socialise together to create a real Greenhead Music community based around the department.

You will be joining a vibrant department, supported by two full time members of experienced staff and a dedicated and specialist music technology technician. Most importantly, you will meet like-minded and enthusiastic students in an environment where you can continue to study something you're passionate about.

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**01** A range of courses - both A Level and BTEC

**02** A wide variety of performance opportunities

**03** Excellent results and progression

**04** A vibrant and supportive musical culture

**05** Expert staff teaching their specialist subjects

WHY SHOULD I STUDY MUSIC AT GREENHEAD COLLEGE?



Head over to YouTube to see our virtual tour of the department!



Follow the QR code to get a feel for what else goes on in the department



# RESULTS AND PROGRESSION

**In 2021-2022**

**100% Distinction / Distinction \*  
in BTEC Music Performance**

**58% of students in Music scored an A\* or A  
(national average 42%)**

**79% of students in Music scored an A\*, A or B  
(national average 67%)**

**60% of students in Music Technology  
scored an A\* or A  
(national average 28%)**

**85% of students in Music Technology  
scored an A\*, A or B  
(national average 57%)**

**100% pass rate across all courses in the  
department since we started running them**



## Recent student destinations

University of Cambridge

Huddersfield University

Leeds Beckett University

Leeds Conservatoire

Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Royal College of Music

Royal Northern College of Music

Royal Welsh College of Music

University of Salford

University of Surrey Tonmeister

# COURSES MUSIC

## A LEVEL MUSIC

A Level Music follows a relatively traditional path, focusing on performance, composition and analysis of works from the western classical tradition through to more contemporary twentieth century classical music. The academic music teaching is combined with an intensive musical programme of high quality and consistently demanding public performances. The department's ensembles have been recognised at The National Festival of Music for Youth as well as maintaining a high profile within the local community. In recent years department ensembles have undertaken international tours as well as performances at Marsden Jazz Festival, The Great Northern Big Band Festival and performances on BBC radio.

A Level Music follows the EDUQAS specification which develops your skills in performance, harmony, composition and analysis. You study set works by Haydn, Mendelssohn, Debussy and Poulenc, focus on the development of the symphony and also learn about pop and rock from 1960-2000. Through intensive study you will improve your aural, theoretical and musicianship skills. To join the A Level Music course, you must have achieved at least Grade V in an instrument or voice. Grade V Music Theory is highly desirable (though not essential).

## BTEC MUSIC PERFORMANCE

BTEC Music Performance allows you to develop practical and industry skills whilst also improving your music theory. The BTEC course is equivalent to one full A Level. The course is widely accepted for progression onto degree level qualifications in music.

BTEC Music consists of four modules - session styles, ensemble performance, professional practice in the music industry and practical musical theory and harmony. The course offers students the chance to focus on their performance skills as a starting point for their further musical study. The course particularly appeals to students with popular contemporary musical interests. Students perform in a variety of situations across the two years on the course.

To study the BTEC course at Greenhead, we ask that you are a confident performer with a desire to perform in front of others.



Need a bit more  
advice? Listen to  
James explaining  
the difference  
between our  
courses here



# COURSES

# MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

## A LEVEL MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Music Technology is a diverse subject area offering students the opportunity to develop skills in composition, production, sequencing and recording. Students have access to two well equipped Mac suites, supporting Logic Pro and Ableton Live. You will also have access to the recording studio and two separate post-production spaces.

The A Level in Music Technology strikes a great balance between the theoretical and academic side of music production (focusing on acoustics, sampling theory and how digital audio works) and the practical skills including how to create high quality recordings and engaging compositions; for example for film and popular song. It is highly regarded for progression into music technology and music production university courses.

You will produce two pieces of non-examined assessment work. The first piece of work is a recording, for which you will choose a song, plan recording sessions, set up microphones, record performers and then spend time mixing and producing in class. The second is a technology-based composition, where you will blend synthesis, sampling and creative effects with the musical elements to produce a 3 minute piece of work. Alongside your practical work, you will study a variety of theoretical topics, from capture of sound to acoustics, and from effects and processing to mastering. These will be assessed via two exam papers in the summer of Year 13; assessing your listening, analysing and producing skills.



# PERFORMANCE AND ENRICHMENT

We offer a wide range of enrichment activities and encourage students to get involved in as much as they can. Our ensembles regularly have national success, performing in the National Festival and the Mrs Sunderland Festival. We play annually at Marsden Jazz Festival and the big band have taken part in the Great North Big Band Festival in recent years. College ensembles have also had the chance to broadcast on BBC radio. In the past, we have also run international tours to Paris and Berlin.

Yorkshire and its surrounding area has a rich and diverse musical history and opportunities to become involved with the local musical community are offered to students. The department works closely with Opera North, The Halle Orchestra, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Huddersfield University, Ricky's School of Rock and Musica Kirklees in arranging and attending performances and workshops.

Music is at the heart of College life at Greenhead and as a student, you have a huge range of opportunities available to you. The Music Department welcomes students from across the College community, whatever their previous musical experience to come and be involved in any of our exciting array of music making opportunities; whilst there are currently over 100 students studying on music courses at Greenhead, there are many more involved in music enrichment.

## Recent enrichment activities

- Sinfonia
- Brass ensemble
- Big band
- College choir
- Intro to music production
- Classic album club
- Experimental noise
- Wind band
- Chamber choir
- String ensemble
- Record label
- Piano duet club
- Folk ensemble
- Session band
- Sound crew
- Big gig
- Community music



Follow the QR code to see a variety of our enrichment activities in action



# WHAT THE STUDENTS SAY

Studying Music at Greenhead was a great decision. I learnt an incredible amount in both Music and Music Technology. There is a fantastic dynamic between staff and students which facilitates everyone becoming their best musical selves. The rich extracurricular aspect of the department also means that anyone with a love for making music can get involved and perform in numerous concerts – **Jack**

I think I really benefitted from how wide-ranging the course at Greenhead is; you get a solid grounding in a lot of music history and theory, but the department also encourages you to combine different disciplines and be inventive with your approaches to them. I think this dual ethos—of providing the opportunity to experiment with a composition, while also offering a technical basis for making that experimentation more fruitful—is what made the course so useful and so enjoyable – **Kiran**

The Greenhead music staff and facilities are top notch – there is a great relationship between students and staff that is really encouraging and productive. The opportunity to play or sing in the numerous ensembles and perform in the college concerts is also a great addition – **George**



Don't take it from us - hear it from the students. Scan the QR code to head over to YouTube and hear what some of our past students say.



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