



## Preparing for KS5 Music

During this difficult lockdown period, we hope you will consider and prepare for further study in Music. At KS5 Music you may be transitioning to an RSL course or an A Level course. Here are our top tips for preparing for the next step. If you have concerns or questions please contact Rachel Rushton, Subject Leader of Music via email at [rachel.rushton@elawnswood.co.uk](mailto:rachel.rushton@elawnswood.co.uk)  
RSL Level 3 Music Practitioner: <https://www.rslawards.com/vocational/music-practitioners/>  
AQA A Level Music: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/as-and-a-level/music-7272>

**Listen to a wide variety of Music.** Take this opportunity to spend time exploring the full History of Western Classical Music. Once you've covered this, explore the wider genres in Popular Music 1950's onwards. We also recommend looking deeply into Traditional Music styles. We recommend creating a free Spotify account and following or creating playlists that you can revisit. There are also a variety of informative podcasts available, try The Listening Service BBC Radio 3 or Composer of the Week.

**Extended Reading.** Explore reading lists for A Level Music or Music Technology. Below are some books we can recommend:

The Story of Music by Howard Goodhall

How Music Works by John Powell

Music: A very short introduction by Nicholas Cook

Listen to This by Alex Ross

**Play your instrument.** Performing is a huge part of KS5 music so we challenge you to play for at least 30 minutes everyday. Those taking A-Level will want to be looking at Grade 5 and above pieces. Please record your work and send it through to Mrs Rushton for feedback against the specification in advance of beginning your course.

**Extended Writing.** This could be to focus on a composer, piece or style of music. Why not create your extended writing in a way that suits you: a podcast, a song, a PowerPoint, an essay or a Thinking Map.

**Composing.** This is hard during lockdown and will depend on what they have at home. Some composition challenges to get you start: create a Chance composition using dice or a deck of cards, compose a Soundscape using only voices and body percussion, create a full piece but really plan out your key signature/time signature/mood/tempo or why not explore the genre of folk songs and aim to create your own beginning with lyrics that are meaningful to you.

**Watching.** There are so many free online streaming resources, operas and documentaries out there during this time. You should explore a genre that is new to you, look out for The Shows Must Go On – Andrew Lloyd Webber.