**Prep for A Level Music**

Theory

* Draw out a **circle of 5ths** (Google this if you are unsure) which includes the key signature and relative minor. For example - C major tonality has nothing in the key signature and its relative minor is A minor (G# is the raised 7th). Next in the sequence is G major (dominant of C) which has F# in the key signature and its relative minor is E minor and so on. A circle of 5ths is a really good way of tracking harmony and tonality when analysing pieces.
* Key signature identification quizzes are useful because in your exam you will need to identify the tonality under pressure - there are quite a few online… <http://www.teoria.com/en/exercises/ksi.php> <https://www.musictheory.net/exercises/keysig> <http://musictheoryfundamentals.com/Quiz/keySignaturesQuiz.php>
* This one has lots of music theory quizzes (interval identification, chords etc) <https://tonesavvy.com/music-practice-exercises/>

Popular Music

* We study a range of popular artists in during the course including Muse, Beyonce, Labrinth, Stevie Wonder, Daft Punk and Joni Mitchell. Have a listen to some of their music if you are unfamiliar with it.
* As classical musicians you may find identifying musical elements trickier in popular music. Have a play around with some pieces by the named artists to see if you can find any common chord progressions.
* Guitar effects - this video is useful for helping you to identify different guitar effect <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pg6QaQpSoUc>

Intro to Opera

* In Y13 you will study The Marriage of Figaro by Mozart. Familiarise yourself with Mozart’s operas by having a listen to the following pieces… - *The Queen of the Night* aria from The Magic Flute (aria is the operatic term for song!) - *Overture* from The Marriage of Figaro - *Madamina, il catalogo e questo* from Don Giovanni
* Research the different types of voices in opera (there are more than just SATB from GCSE). Have a listen to examples of sopranos, mezzo-sopranos, altos, baritones, tenors and basses. The Royal Opera House YouTube channel has some good examples.

Romantic Piano Music

* We study piano pieces by Chopin, Greig and Brahms. Have a look through pieces you have played in the past - have you played any by these composers?
* Have a think about the musical elements to see if you can start to sum up stylistic features of each composer. Think about use of harmony, tonality, use of the piano, expression and dynamics, rhythm and melody.

Performance

* Keep practicing! To achieve full marks for difficulty at A Level you need to perform a Grade 8 or above piece. Grade 7 is also OK but won’t get you full marks. If you have a piece of grade 7 or above ready for when we start back at school, we can get it recorded so we’ve got one ‘in the bag’ already. In total you need to perform for at least 10 minutes - this can be made up by many pieces, solo or ensemble, and you can record each piece separately.