**Music:**

Before you study A Level Music it is essential that you are in the habit of regularly listening to music from a range of genres and that your music theory is thorough enough for you to access the course. Here are four tasks for the summer break that we will expect to see in your first lessons in September.

**Task One: Listening Diary**

Below is a list of pieces you are expected to listen to in order to get you started before you start the course. We will be discussing your response to them in your first lessons so make sure you are fully prepared and bring your notes written up in a diary form. Headings on the elements of music would give your responses the right detail (eg instrumentation, sonority, texture, melody)

*With the larger works choose at least 15 minutes of the work or focus on ONE single movement*

1. Gabrieli                                O Wilheme Pastor Bone
2. Bach                                      Preludes and Fugues
3. Corelli                                   Christmas Concerto
4. Handel                                  Messiah
5. Mozart                                 Serenade in Bb K361
6. Beethoven                           Symphony No. 9
7. Stravinsky                            Firebird Suite
8. Mahler                                 Symphony 1
9. Debussy                               La Mer
10. Verdi                                     Requiem
11. Vaughan Williams              The Lark Ascending
12. Britten                                  Peter Grimes
13. Taverner                              Song for Athene
14. Adams                                  A Short Ride in a Fast Machine

*Feel free to add more things that you listen to. The BBC Proms are a great place to explore and find new music either on television, the website or on the radio.*

There is a great series of podcasts on Radio 3 at the link below that may support this listening.

[*http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01s6ldw/clips*](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01s6ldw/clips)

**Task Two: Music theory preparation**

Prepare to take an ABRSM grade 3 theory paper in one of your first music lessons. If you have not done theory grades already then books can be purchased or found online to support you. This website is very good: [Musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net/lessons) Another excellent website to explore is <http://teoria.com/index.php>

Alternatively you can email Mrs Gleed on [egleed@bristolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:egleed@bristolcathedral.org.uk) if you have any questions about this or want more personalised advice.

**Task Three: Performance preparation**

As part of the A Level you will be expected to perform on your instrument regualrly both in class and as part of our co-curricular clubs. At A Level it is recommended you are performing at roughly grade 6 and improving. Use the summer to work on technique and pieces, it can be a popular time to take your foot off the pedal. Beware of not doing this or September you’ll need to work twice as hard!

**Task Four: Composition preparation**

Use this time to explore composition, whether through creating a scrapbook of ideas or by composing a whole piece. Use MuseScore or BandLab (there are many others) to record ideas if you like. If composition is something you find harder and would like to use the summer to work on then again email [egleed@bristolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:egleed@bristolcathedral.org.uk) for more personalised advice.

We very much look forward to meeting you in September, all being well! We do appreciate that year 11 ended in a very unique way. We will be keen to support you and welcome you into what I think is the most exciting and vibrant music department.

Mrs Liz Gleed

Head of Music