



# MUSIC A-LEVEL

Edexcel

## COURSE OVERVIEW

Music at A level is a natural progression from GCSE with the same weighting of course components: performance, composition and listening and appraising. As stated above those candidates who do not have GCSE music but can already perform pieces of Grade 5 standard will be able to manage the course and will undertake, where necessary, an additional music theory booster course.



## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

### Component One: Performing – 30% (coursework)

Solo and/or ensemble performance lasting 8 minutes recorded at the end of Year 13

### Component Two: Composition – 30% (coursework)

Two compositions to be submitted lasting a total of 6 minutes, submitted at the end of Year 13.

Composition One is a free composition based on one of the six areas of study (see below). It can be written in any style for any combination of instruments and/or voices.

Composition Two is a technical exercise, using techniques taught during the course, which is completed under controlled conditions at the end of Year 13.

### Component Three: Listening and Appraising – 40% (two-hour examination)

There are 13 exciting set works taken from the six areas of study: vocal music; instrumental music; music for film; popular music and jazz; fusions and new directions. Music studied includes Bach, Debussy, Mozart, the Beatles and film scores from Psycho and Batman!

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Music at a Grade 6 or above. Those candidates who do not have GCSE music but can already perform pieces of Grade 5 standard will also be able to manage the course and will undertake, where necessary, an additional music theory booster course.



## WHY STUDY THIS SUBJECT?

Music is widely respected and recognised as a rigorous performing arts subject and requires a range of different skills such as analysis, creativity and self-discipline. Music complements other subject areas and, as well as being the pathway to further study of music at university or conservatoire, it can form a great platform for entry into a whole range of creative careers.

The best A level musicians listen widely to a variety of styles; practise every day and take part in some ensemble activity; put themselves forward for concerts and performances; enjoy discussing music and offering their opinions and look to professional performances and recordings for inspiration on how to develop their own technique and skills. If you have a love of music along with self-motivation this is an ideal course.

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

“A very practical subject. It’s really expanded my knowledge and understanding of music” - (Year 12 student)

**Further Information:** Please see Mr Watson or email [cwatson@st-anselms.com](mailto:cwatson@st-anselms.com)