

# Music

Exam Board: EdExcel



[www.stbarts.co.uk](http://www.stbarts.co.uk)



## Course Summary

In A Level Music you can explore your musical creativity whilst studying methods, perfecting performance techniques and enhancing your general musicianship. Music is a widely respected discipline and offers you an opportunity to broaden your musical experience, develop imagination and foster interests. You will build on your understanding of musical elements, style, sense of continuity, interpretation, and expression.

In A Level Music you will focus on three clear areas for development. You will complete a composition portfolio of two pieces (one free composition and one to a set brief). This will incorporate an understanding of four-part harmony, the manipulation of musical ideas and the use of musical devices.

The second area comprises of a submission of a performance portfolio of between eight to ten minutes on your chosen instrument. This may take the form of solo work(s) or ensemble performances and must be recorded as one continuous performance in front of a small or large audience.

In the third area of study you will have the opportunity to investigate and analyse music from a broad historical range. You will appraise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and develop understanding of musical contexts and a coherent awareness of musical chronology.

## Entry Requirements

GCSE Music is not a requirement, but where it has been studied, a Grade 5 is required. It is essential to be able to play a musical instrument or sing for the performing aspect of the course. Additional music exams are also beneficial but not essential. Please speak to a member of the music staff if you are unsure about any of these areas.

## Course Assessment

A Level Music is externally assessed/moderated and weighted according to the different areas submitted. Performing (30%), composing (30%) and the written examination paper (40%). This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

## Where might it lead?

A Level Music can lead to entrance into prestigious musical institutions, as well as or facilitating careers in music performance, composing, musicology, music promotion, journalism, teaching, conducting, (the list is endless). Equally many students opt to study A Level Music purely for the love of their art and the wider benefits of a creative subject.



“

I have thoroughly enjoyed improving my composition skills, finding new and exciting ways to communicate my musical ideas. ADAM

”