

# A-Level Preparation into the Sixth Form 2023

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## MUSIC (Eduqas)

We will be introducing A Level Music from September 2024, following the Eduqas examining board. It is administered by WJEC, the Welsh examination board. The benefit of this board is that it allows learners to focus more on performing or composition, in addition to the appraisal aspect of the course. Learners are still required to both perform and compose, but they can choose the weighting of each discipline. Music students studying A Level are expected to commit to extra-curricular music, in addition to the demands of the A Level syllabus. It may be possible for students to study Music at A Level, even if they have not studied it at GCSE. Please see the Director of Music, Mr Pearce, (who will be joining the school in January 2024) for more information.



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### PERFORMING (25% or 35%)

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The performing component of the course gives you the opportunity to extend your performance skills as a soloist, or as part of an ensemble. In Year 13, you will perform a recital lasting a minimum of 10 minutes or a minimum of 6 minutes, depending on the option you choose. It can be on any instrument (or voice). If you take the performance option then two pieces must be linked to two areas of study. If you take the composition option, then one piece must be linked to an area of study.

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### COMPOSING (25% or 35%)

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The course required you to complete either two compositions totalling 4 minutes in length, or three compositions totalling 8 minutes in length. In the first option one composition is to a brief set by WJEC using the techniques and conventions of the Western Classical Tradition. The second composition is a free composition. If the second option is taken, two compositions are linked to two different areas of study and one composition is a free composition.

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### LISTENING AND APPRAISING (40%)

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This part of the course focuses on listening to and understanding a range of works. Some of which are set by the board and some of which are chosen by the course leader. At the end of Year 13 you will sit a two-hour 15 minutes written paper. There are three areas of study:

- 1) The development of the symphony;
- 2) One option from Rock and Pop, Music Theatre and Jazz;
- 3) One option from Into the Twentieth Century (1) and Into the Twentieth Century (2).

You are required to use analytical and appraisal skills to make evaluative and critical judgements about music. The exam contains a combination of short answer responses, listening tests and essay style questions.

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Familiarity with the concepts covered in Grade 5 Theory is also very important for A Level Music. If you have not yet done this, try to get hold of the book and start to work through it.

#### EXTRA-CURRICULAR

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A Level Music students are expected to play a leading role in the extra-curricular life of the department. Currently there is an orchestra and two choirs, and a music theory club. All music ensembles are open to the Sixth Form, and you do not need to be studying A Level Music to take part. A timetable will be distributed at the start of the academic year.

Many students at St Michael's benefit enormously from the study of a musical instrument, and we have a number of private instrumental and vocal teachers who provide weekly individual lessons at school. We offer lessons on most orchestral instruments (woodwind, brass and strings), guitar, bass guitar, piano, voice and drum kit. The department has five air-conditioned practice rooms, a separate drum room, and plenty of space for storing instruments.

