



KEY STAGE 3 MUSIC CURRICULUM (YEARS 7&8)

In years 7 and 8 music is taught in 12 units, 6 per year coinciding with the school term structure. Each term groups will move between the 2 music teaching rooms to gain a varied delivery of the subject due to the range of facilities offered in each room. The units studied and their rooming are as follows:

Year 7

Reading / Theory (Ensemble) M1

Learning to read notation / perform a simple piece of music using classroom percussion from notation.

Introduction to the Keyboard (Solo) M2

How use the functions of the keyboard, position hands correctly and find key notes. To perform simple pieces of music using both hands. To read pitch and rhythm and to perform from notation. To begin using and understanding key musical vocabulary / terminology.

Introduction to Music Tech M1

To learn how to set out a sequencing page. How to import / order sounds within a track. To perform simple parts on a multi-track recording. To use the basic recording / editing functions available.

Musical Structures / Variations M2

Understanding / working with form and structure. Patterns in music. Learning to perform and create variations on a piece of music.

Introduction to the Guitar M1

Learning correct posture. How to use the guitar. To perform a simple riff and chord sequence

Waltz / Triple Time M2

Learning to perform music in $\frac{3}{4}$. Learning historical background of waltzes. Looking at popular waltzes. Understanding 3 beats in a bar.

Year 8

Rock Band (M1)

Students learn to perform relevant parts from within a rock band in order to perform as a class band.

Music from Film and TV (M2)

Students perform famous theme tunes and leit motifs from films and TV, understanding how they set a scene or contribute to an atmosphere

Reading TAB

(M1)

Students learn how to find notes on the guitar using a TAB graph. Students then perform a simple chord sequence and riff using TAB.

Musical Levels (Rhythm / Bass / Harmony / Melody) (M2)

Students learn about the elements of music and how they integrate (MRSDHITT). Students learn how to construct chords and harmony and how to manipulate these to create effect.

Musical Levels extended (ICT)

(M1)

Students take the skills they have learned in the previous unit and record them into a track on Cubase, gaining a deeper understanding of how the parts combine whilst developing their ICT skills. Students will explore more complicated features of Cubase such as drum part editing.

Solo Performance / Critical Assessment

(M2)

Students are given a level appropriate piece of music to perform on a keyboard (or their own instrument) and perform to the class who will give feedback as well as self-assessment and teacher assessment (based on the GCSE framework).

Throughout all 12 units, students are encouraged to develop the following musical skills:

- Asking musical questions / sharing opinions appropriately
- Collecting/recording/presenting/evaluating /drawing conclusions from work / examples
- Appreciating musical styles from history / cultures
- Using extended musical vocabulary
- Reading musical in a variety of ways
- Communicating, including using ICT
- Developing aural skills
- Developing performing skills
- Developing compositional skills
- Understanding how the musical elements combine to make music
- Musical theory

Developing Language and Literacy

Developing the 'use of language across the curriculum' is promoted in music through the KS3 National Strategy. The KS3 music scheme of work incorporates opportunities for students to develop their literacy, numeracy and ICT skills throughout in accordance with school and national policies. Musical Literacy is developed further through use of assessment sheets which contain key words associated with the topic they are working on in order to incorporate key vocabulary in class discussion, as well as recording self and peer assessment. Furthermore Literacy tasks are set implicitly within homework to help students develop their knowledge of key vocabulary.

Teaching and Learning

Students are encouraged to improve their own learning, performance and problem-solving. All KS3 units of work contain a range of assessment techniques and 'thinking skills' activities that help students 'learn how to learn'. These include:

Independent practice

'start you off' activities

Creative tasks

Peer Assessment

Teacher directed group practice

Self Assessment

Paired work

Group work

Resources

The music department has a class set of keyboards, acoustic guitars and high quality ICT facilities capable of both score writing (Sibelius 5) and sequencing (Cubase Studio 5). All musical resources to be used in conjunction with these facilities are bespoke designed by members of the music teaching team in order to suit the strengths of the department, needs of the students and to match current musical trends in order to encourage enthusiasm in the work. All notated resources produced by the department are available to be taken home by students who wish to further their practice.