

Curriculum Intent

The aim of the music curriculum is to build an enthusiastic, broad and creative understanding of the subject and as a tool for positively enriching the lives of young people. This will progress through each key stage, whilst building students' independence and drive to succeed.

The creative and passionate student will engage with all aspects of music, both in and out of lesson time, whilst growing their confidence and understanding of musical career opportunities. Parallel to the curriculum, there will be inclusive opportunities for solo, ensemble and whole class engagement, including the potential additions of peripatetic music lessons and diverse enrichment from network professionals, to enhance the varied and artistic curriculum.

The curriculum focusses on the three core aspects of musical opportunities: composition, performance, and theoretical knowledge. The curriculum has recently been updated to ensure a more positive progression through the key stages, ensuring that through practical music making we effectively intertwine important theoretical knowledge. The updated curriculum chronologically includes: musical elements, the creative musician, programmatic music and ensemble performance, which all aim to seamlessly transition the student into KS5. Furthermore, the updated curriculum aims to develop sustained musical ideas, discussions, and performances, alongside a growing passion for the subject.

'Why This, Why Now'

In our planning, we have asked ourselves 'why this, why now?' Here we provide some examples of the curriculum choices we have made, and why the units have been placed in the order we have chosen:

- Year 8 begin with a Unit that will be build upon skills learnt throughout year 7 on the keyboard
- The Hooks + Riffs unit is completed by year 8 to allow for a focussed approach to keyboard skills earlier in the year
- Year 8 conclude the year with music writing so for the start of year 9 they understand a little of what will be required at GCSE and can address these decisions earlier on in the year





The Medium-Term Planning document below is designed to show the journey that every student takes through the music curriculum, leading towards a Music GCSE pathway.

Some elements of the curriculum may be taught over several lessons, others in a single lesson.

MUSIC	Year 8 – Half Term 1				
Topic	Content	Formative Assessments?	Link(s) to an example lesson		
Hooks + Riffs	Two handed keyboard recap lesson		L1.url		
	Warm up skills		L2.url		
	Bass lines		L3.url		
	Reading musical notation		l4.url		
	Accidentals/sharps/flats		L5.url		
	ASSESSMENT	Keyboard performance	Assessment /50 – marked with GCSE criteria – accuracy/fluency/musicality/effort		
	Key Words: hook, riff, warm-up, treble clef, bass clef, semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver, bass line, ostinato, walking bass line, sharps, flats, ensemble, musicality, fluency				
	Evidenced on knowledge organisers and within powerpoints too.				





MUSIC	Year 8 – Half Term 2 + 3				
Topic	Content	Formative Assessments?	Link(s) to an example lesson		
	Hall of the Mountain King (literacy focus)	Bell Work Recall Quizzes Mini WB formative assessment in lessons Demonstrations Performances	L1.url		
	Structures		L2.url		
	Treble clef notation		L3.url		
	ABA		L4.url		
Tonality + Structure	Melody + Accompaniment		<u>L5.url</u>		
Tollanty + Structure	Performance		<u>L6.url</u>		
	ASSESSMENT	Keyboard performance	Assessment /50		
	Key Words: Grieg, notation, treble clef, bass clef, structure, tonality, major, minor, ABA, melody and accompaniment, verse, chorus, orchestra, melody, harmony, accompaniment Evidenced on knowledge organisers and within powerpoints too.				

Summative Assessment:

Mid-Year Assessments will take place at the end of half term 2. These will cover all content taught in the first 2 half terms. This assessment will inform pupil Rank Order in the subject.

The assessment will be formed of a solo performance on the keyboard of a two-handed piece of music, taught throughout half term 2

- Musicality /30
- Accuracy /30
- Effort /30
- Difficulty /10





• Total = 100

MUSIC	Year 8 – Half Term 4 + 5			
Topic	Content	Formative Assessments?	Link(s) to an example lesson	
	Ukulele		Lesson 1	
	Chord progressions	Bell Work	Lesson 2	
	Melody (recap)	Recall Quizzes	Lesson 3	
	Hooks (recap)	Mini WB formative assessment in lessons	Lesson 4	
	Drums	Demonstrations	Lesson 5	
	Musical Genres	Performances	Lesson 6	
Ensemble Musician	Composition		Lesson 7	
	ASSESSMENT	Vocal performance	Assessment /50 – marked with the same categories at the GCSE criteria – Fluency, Accuracy and Musicality	
	Key Words: chord progressions, major, minor, tonality, ensemble, conductor, beat, time, tempo, dynamics, genres, hooks, riffs, intervals, sharps, flats, 3rds			
	Evidenced on knowledge organisers and within powerpoints too.			





End of year assessments will take place at the start of half term 6. This will be an ensemble performance, inclusive of all learnt techniques over the second year.

This assessment will inform pupil Rank Order in the subject.

- Musicality /40
- Accuracy /30
- Effort /30

Total = 100

MUSIC	Year 8 – Half Term 6				
Topic	Content	Formative Assessments?	Link(s) to an example lesson		
Song Writing – Improvisation	Chord Progressions	Bell Work	Lesson 1 1		
	Beat – syncopation	Recall Quizzes	Lesson 2		
	Beat + pulse	Mini WB formative assessment in lessons	Lesson 3		
	Improvisation	Demonstrations	Lesson 4		
	Composition	Performances	Lesson 5		
	ASSESSMENT	Ensemble composition	Assessment /100 – marked with the same categories at the GCSE criteria – Fluency, Accuracy and Musicality		
	Key Words: chords, progression, improvisation, lyrical, rhyming, pulse, tempo, BPM, metronome, harmony, melody				
	Evidenced on knowledge organisers and within powerpoints too.				

