



Music Curriculum Overview - Year 8

Unit		Details
Autumn One	The Blues	Pupils learn about the historical and cultural context of the Blues through listening to a variety of original Blues recordings including Robert Johnson and Ma Rainey. Pupils analyse the lyrics and the structure of the lyrics and compose their own lyrics for a blues song using AAB format. After developing further their understanding of staff notation to include degrees of the scale and triads and dominant 7ths pupils learn the 12 bar blues structure and perform the bar blues on both keyboard and ukulele. Pupils begin to compose their own melodic line over the top of the 12 bar blues. Pupils learn to sing in unison and in parts the Blues song Mercy.
Autumn Two	Christmas Keyboard Performance	Pupils develop their working understanding of reading notes on the staff in treble and bass clef, rhythmic notation and key signatures by learning and performing a selection of graded Christmas Keyboard and piano pieces from beginner to Grade 5+. Pupils perform to each other for peer and teacher assessment. Pupils listen to three different versions of White Christmas and analyse the different use and approaches of the musical elements and the subsequent impact on the music. Pupils learn to sing White Christmas both in Unison and in three parts.
Spring One	Contextual Understanding through the 20th Century	Pupils go on a musical journey through the twentieth century learning about the cultural and historical contexts of musical developments alongside the political, technological and political contexts of each decade and the impact these had on musical styles and genres. Pupils listen to and analyse a wide variety of music from jazz, swing, early Rock n Roll, through 1960s British Invasion, Soul, Funk, Rock, 1980s and into Britpop. Pupils perform music from each decade using either Chapir Drumming, Ukulele, guitar or keyboard in collaboration with Musical Futures. Pupils research and present a project on a decade or artists of their choice which is both teacher and peer assessed. Finally pupils learn and sing songs in preparation for the KS3 Easter Service.
Spring Two		
Summer One	Structure and Form / Textures	Using BandLab or Sibelius, in this term pupils will compose their own piece of music in one of a selection of set structures: binary, ternary, song form or Rondo Theme. In preparation for this, pupils will learn about each of these structures and listen to and analyse examples including Raiders of the Lost Ark (Rondo). Pupils will also learn about the main textures and will compose using one of or a selection of textures form monophonic, melody and accompaniment, homophonic or even polyphonic. Pupils will present and perform their compositions for teacher and peer assessment. At the end of the year pupils will sing whole school songs for the end of year service.
Summer Two		