

Year 8 Music Curriculum Overview



Year 8 Overview

Students continue to develop their listening skills, practical skills and musical knowledge. Utilising the skills and techniques explored in Year 7 students continue to develop Music technique and understanding.

Within the Year 8 curriculum, students will listen to and review styles of music, describing the key features of Music. They will explore music practically, learning the foundation of reading, playing and composing their own music. They will use vocal skills to sing and create a pitch to sell their music products.

Term 1 a – Icons in Music – Ed Sheeran and Queen

In Term 1a – students will look at famous pop icons of music. They will understand what it means to be an 'icon', how each artist(s) has influenced modern culture and modern music; whilst also appreciated the particular musical style of the 'icon' they are studying. They will complete this term by producing and presenting a Powerpoint presentation about their chose icon.

Term 1b – Keyboard Skills

In this term, we will explore all things keyboard this term, from playing a melody to learning simple chords. From learning about note valuations, to reading sheet music. Students will have both practical and theoretical looks into the keyboard, from looking at posture ready to play, finger placement to looking at complex melodies. This will culminate in the students playing a well-known melody.

Term 2a- Stomp!

In this term, students will learn about body percussion by studying the works of *Stomp!* From an in-depth theoretical view of looking at playing styles of percussion music, to creating homemade instruments, to performing in a practical rhythm workshop. This will be completed by the students (in groups) creating their own rhythms using household objects/

Term 2b – Create a Band

In term 2b, students will create a band, using the skills they have generated over the academic year, combined with workshops is ensemble work. Looking at beats and rhythms, melodies and song writing, students can choose the genre of their band, the instruments used and the musical elements they will use. They will create a band name, logo and merchandise to promote. They will look at promotional materials such as interviews, posters, social media and listening platforms such as You Tube and Spotify. They will then create their song, and prepare a pitch on their band.

Term 3a – Singing – The Voice as an instrument

students will explore the voice. Exploring how the voice works, students will begin by looking at how the human body produces sound from a scientific point of view. They will then explore genres of music and how the affects the voice of a singer, concentrating on tone of voice and articulation. From this, they will learn advanced singing techniques such as

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applying emotion to your voice and techniques such as Call and Response, chanting and singing in Ensemble. This will culminate in a presentation in small groups outlining what they have learnt this term.

Term 3b – Charanga – DAW

In term 3b students will use DAW to compose music for Film and performance, this allows students to explore atmosphere, applying musical elements to a theatre sound sheet. Using Charanga and Yu studio students will get first-hand knowledge of being a music producer. This gives them insight into modern music production and the role of music producer/artist.

Students will gain skills this year that will support their transition into Year 9, allowing them to work as a solo artist and as an ensemble. They will work independently gaining skills and techniques to prepare them for the Year 9 curriculum.

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Week Number	Topic	Key Knowledge & Skills	Key Assessments
1-6 (Autumn 1)	Icons of Music	- Recap on the musical elements- pitch, tempo, volume, structure, dynamics and silence - Listen to music and identify and describe the musical elements - Explore music from Musical ICONS Ed Sheeran and Queen. - Describe the musical elements used by the famous artists - Learn how to read music - Explore the keyboard and how to play - Develop skills to play a song by one of the ICONs - Develop an understanding of how the Musical ICON's music were used in Musical Theatre. -	- Teacher observation of workshops/ practical exploration - Observation sheet - Peer feedback - Self evaluation - Present fact file.
7-13 (Autumn 2)	Keyboard Skills	- Learning to understand sheet music - Correct finger placement - Playing simple melodies - Learning rhythm/tempo - Playing more complex melodies - Learning simple chords	- Listening tasks - Teacher observation of workshops/ - Observation sheet - practical exploration - Performance
14-18 (Spring 1)	STOMP!	Percussion: • Listen to music created by Stomp • Identify and describe the key features • Take part in workshops to develop skill using upcycled materials focusing on the sound they make, texture and layering of rhythm and beats • Create a song using three or more upcycled materials and three musical elements • Perform back • Receive verbal feedback	- Teacher observation of workshops/ practical exploration - Observation sheet - Performance - Self evaluation
19-24 (Spring 2)	Create a Band	- Explore genres of music - In groups choose a genre to develop material - Choose a target audience - Promoting material - Create a band, band name, logo, merchandise	- Teacher observation of workshops/ practical exploration - Observation sheet - Performance

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		- Gain an understanding of how bands are promoting through creation of interviews, reviews and TV appearances - Pitch your bands name, genre, logo and merchandise in the form of a presentation - Evaluate your input to the process in workbook throughout	- Pitch/Presentation of work completed in the term
25-30	Singing – The Voice as an Instrument	– Develop an understanding of how the voice work/The vocal systems – Explore Genre and how to sing each genre (practical exploration) – Take part in practical workshops to develop singing skills and techniques such as trills, sirens and scales – Explore advanced techniques such as <i>Call and Response</i> and <i>Ensemble Singing</i> – Evaluate your input to the project – Present your findings to the class	- Teacher observation of workshops/ practical exploration - Observation sheet - Performance - Evaluative report – written document - Presentation of 'how-to guide' in Week 6
25- 36 (Summer 1 and 2)	Charanga – a DAW introduction	- Explore music in film and TV, describe the musical elements used for the range of genres - Listening exercises - Develop an understanding of how music enhances film and performance - Develop music for a drama scene using a sound sheet for a theatre scene using DAW - Apply musical elements to the scene to create tension and atmosphere - Create a composition - Rehearse - Perform back - Receive feedback -	- Teacher observation of workshops/ practical exploration - Performance - Evaluative report – written document - Record, Save and Play your composition