



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Curriculum Overview



The curriculum of the school reflects the demands of the National Curriculum. It is designed in order to provide all pupils with a broad, balanced education relevant to their needs both now and in the future.

Music Departmental Overview

Students receive their weekly curriculum Music lessons in a custom built room equipped with 17 iMac computers (with music editing software), keyboards, African djembes, tuned percussion and ukuleles. In addition to this, students benefit from lunchtime and after school access to four private music practice rooms and one rehearsal space. The department also works closely with Pulse Music Liverpool to provide weekly one to one/group instrument lessons for students on violin, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, piano and drums. Many of our students take part in extra-curricular activities such as supervised practice clubs, Vocal Group, Rock Band and Concert Band. We give two public performances a year to parents, pupils and staff.

Departmental Staff

Miss K Ellison Head of Department

Ms K Forrest SLT Line Manager

Year 7 Music (KS3)

Curriculum Overview

Half-term 1

Unit 1 Introduction to Music - Pulse & Rhythm:

Students are introduced to the basics of music – learning how to play in time with a steady beat and understanding simple rhythmic notation. Students take part in whole class ensemble performances on African djembe drums and compose and perform their own rhythm pieces in small groups.

Half-term 2

Unit 2 Vocal Skills:

Students develop their ability to sing in tune and with good technique. They also work on their ability to present themselves well with good posture and enhance their vocal performance through the use of dynamics and articulation.

Half-term 3

Unit 3 Keyboard Skills:

Students learn how to play a simple solo piece on the keyboard using both hands. This allows them to extend their knowledge of musical notation, develop their co-ordination skills and use dynamics and articulation.

Half-terms 4 & 5

Unit 4 Tuned Percussion:

Students continue to develop their instrumental skills by learning how to play the glockenspiel, xylophone and metallophone (tuned percussion). Their knowledge of musical notation and score reading is further developed, as is their ability to maintain their own part within an ensemble performance. They are taught how to play a simple bass line, thirds and melody.

Half-term 6

Unit 5 Ukuleles:

Students learn how to play a simple bass line and chords on the ukulele. This further develops their co-ordination, dexterity and sense of musicianship, as well as introducing them to harmony.

Examinations/Key Assessments

Students are assessed at the end of each unit of work (approximately every 6 weeks).

Homework

Homework is set formally each term. Students are required to use the Music Practice rooms to prepare for assessments as often as possible.

How Parents can Help

Please encourage your son to listen to a wide variety of music, practise if he has an instrument at home, check he is completing his homework and encourage him to attend the extra-curricular Music activities we have on offer.

Year 8 Music (KS3)

Curriculum Overview

Half-term 1

Unit 1 Keyboard Skills:

Students revisit their keyboard skills by learning a more complex solo piece. This will require them to play more challenging rhythms and learn how to change hand position. This is in addition to continuing to improve their sense of co-ordination and ability to play with expression.

Half-term 2

Unit 2 Music in the Media:

Students are introduced to Music Technology by learning how to use the iMacs to compose and record their own advertising music.

Half-term 3

Unit 3 The Blues:

Students study the history of how the Blues originated, learn how to play 12 bar Blues chords and walking bass line, improvise using the Blues scale, and compose and rehearse their own Blues song in pairs/small groups.

Half-terms 4 & 5

Unit 4 Class Band:

Students are given the opportunity to learn the guitar, bass and drums. They will select their own rock/pop song and rehearse it in groups for their performance assessment.

Half-term 6

Unit 5 Dance Music:

Students revisit Music Technology by composing their own piece of dance music in pairs. This will require them to refine their skills using music editing software.

Examinations/Key Assessments

Students are assessed at the end of each unit of work (approximately every 6 weeks).

Homework

Homework is set formally each term. Students are required to use the Music Practice rooms to prepare for assessments as often as possible.

How Parents can Help

Please encourage your son to listen to a wide variety of music, practise if he has an instrument at home, check he is completing his homework and encourage him to attend the extra-curricular Music activities we have on offer.

Year 9/10/11 Music (KS4)

Examination/Specification Board

EDEXCEL

Curriculum Overview

Music GCSE is a challenging course as it incorporates practical work and academic work. Although 60% of your overall grade is awarded for your performing and composing skills, not every lesson will be practical as you also have to prepare for a written listening exam. You need to be prepared to learn about lots of different musical styles, not just the styles of music you personally like to listen to and perform. 60% of your marks are awarded for practical work – performing and composing. In some lessons we will build on the work you do with your instrumental teacher. You will also learn how to compose your own music using the keyboards and iMacs. 40% of your marks are awarded for the Listening Exam. The 8 “set works” you have to learn about for your exam will be delivered in a way that incorporates your developing instrumental and compositional skills. This will complement more theory based work – learning how to analyse music, read musical scores, listening activities and some essay writing.

You will receive weekly instrument lessons from a visiting peripatetic teacher in order to prepare you for your final performance exams. These are timetabled on a half-termly rota and will either take place during lesson time, at lunchtime and before or after school.

Examinations/Key Assessments

Unit 1: 30% (Teacher assessed)

Unit 2: 30% (Teacher assessed)

Unit 3: 40% (Externally assessed)

Homework

Practise your instrument on a daily basis in preparation for your weekly instrument lesson and final performance exams. Complete practice essay questions for homework in preparation for the listening exam. Attend after school coursework catch-up sessions in order to prepare for controlled assessments. Attend lunchtime/after school extra-curricular activities so as to develop your ensemble performance skills.

How Parents can Help

Please encourage your son to practise his instrument on a daily basis. Be fully supportive of and encourage good attendance at weekly instrument lessons/extracurricular activities/concerts/coursework catch-up and intervention sessions.