

Curriculum Overview

MUSIC

KS3

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Half term 1	<p>Western Classical Music: An introduction to the musical elements, staff notation, and performance at the keyboard.</p> <p>A study of Pachelbel's Canon in C, Morning Mood by Grieg, and Ode to Joy by Beethoven.</p>	<p>Western Classical Music: Developing skills in staff notation and performance at the keyboard.</p> <p>A study of Brahms' Lullaby/ Cradle Song, Haydn's Surprise Symphony, and Vivaldi's Spring.</p>	<p>Western Classical Music: Developing skills in staff notation and performance at the keyboard.</p> <p>A study of Greensleeves, Beethoven's Fur Elise, and Saint-Saen's 'The Swan' from Carnival of the Animals.</p>
Half term 2	<p>Celebration Music: An introduction to the ukulele, tab notation, and how music is used for celebration, focus on Christmas.</p> <p>A study of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and Jingle Bells.</p>	<p>Celebration Music: Developing skills on ukulele, tab notation, and performing chords, focus on Christmas and performing as a duet.</p> <p>A study of We Three Kings and Away in A Manger.</p>	<p>Celebration Music: Refining skills on ukulele, tab notation, and performing chords, focus on Christmas and in a group.</p> <p>A study of We Wish You A Merry Christmas and The Holly and The Ivy.</p>
Half term 3	<p>Music for Stage and Screen: An introduction to how music supports and describes the on-screen action, and developing performance skills at the keyboard.</p>	<p>Music for Stage and Screen: Increasing awareness of how musical instruments are used to represent characters and events on-screen, and developing performance skills at the keyboard.</p>	<p>Music for Stage and Screen: Evaluating how the musical elements are altered to affect mood and purpose, and refining performance skills at the keyboard.</p>

	A study of Bob the Builder, Theme from The Titanic, and Oompa Loompa Song from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.	A study of Jurassic Park/ Raiders of the Lost Ark medley, Inspector Gadget Theme, and Over the Rainbow from The Wizard of Oz.	A study of Thomas the Tank Engine Theme, Duck Tales/ Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle medley.
Half term 4	<p>Composing with Words: An introduction to musical composition using the musical alphabet, the major scale, and basic note durations.</p> <p>Students produce a structured 8-bar original composition and input it into Sibelius software.</p>	<p>Cultural Study: The Music of China: An introduction to the pentatonic scale, and how music can reflect time and place. Focus on Chinese New Year.</p> <p>A study of Gung Hei Fat Choi, Picking Tea, followed by the creation of an original music composition using the pentatonic scale.</p>	<p>Cultural Study: Blues Music: An introduction to the Blues scale and chromaticism. Historical placement. Focus on 12-bar blues and composition.</p> <p>Students will compose a melody using the Blues scale and perform it over a 12-bar Blues chord pattern.</p>
Half term 5	<p>Cultural Study: The Music of Africa: An introduction to alternative forms of notation and polyrhythms. Focus on Rhythm Grids and Djembe drums.</p> <p>Students will perform in small groups, each drumming different parts of the rhythm grid. They may also create their own grids.</p>	<p>Popular Music: Developing skills using chord grids and lyric sheets, focus on small group performances using voice, guitars, piano, and ukulele, in Reggae style.</p> <p>Students to produce a performance of either: Italian Brainrot (Original); I'm Yours (Jason M'Raz); Three Little Birds (Bob Marley and the Wailers).</p>	<p>Popular Music: Refining skills using chord grids and lyric sheets, focus on small group performances using voice, guitars, piano, and ukulele, in a variety of styles.</p> <p>Students to produce a performance of either: Ocean Eyes (Billie Eilish); Zombie (The Cranberries); When I Come Around (Green Day); Don't Stop Believin' (Journey).</p>
Half term 6	<p>Popular Music: An introduction to chord grids and lyric sheets, focus on small group performances using voice, guitar, piano, and ukulele in traditional pop style.</p> <p>Students to produce a performance of either: Someone Like You (Adele); Yellow (Coldplay); Photograph (Ed Sheeran).</p>	<p>Students will also focus on songwriting in the Reggae style in Half Term 6, including politics in music.</p>	<p>Students will also focus on songwriting in a traditional pop style in Half Term 6, including 'the four chord trick', riffs, and song structure.</p>

Curriculum Overview

MUSIC

KS4

	Year 10	Year 11
Half term 1	<p>Bridging – Introduction to GCSE Music:</p> <p>Students will be rapidly taken through Grade 1 Theory of Music to ensure that they are able to successfully continue with the course. Fluency in reading treble and bass staff notation will be fundamental to this half term’s content, as will the structure of scales and chords within keys.</p> <p>All students begin their peripatetic lessons on their specialised instruments/ voice, and they will be working towards graded music exams, mostly on the RSL syllabus, but Trinity, ABRSM, and RGT syllabi are also available.</p> <p>Students will sit a Grade 1 Theory of Music paper in October, the pass mark is 67%</p>	<p>Coursework Completion. CO2: Composing</p> <p>Students will spend the majority of this half term working independently on their 2 original compositions. They will also resume their peripatetic instrumental/ vocal lessons where they will be preparing for their final performances, which can be recorded at any time during this academic year.</p> <p>The set brief for composition will be released at the start of this half term, and students will immediately begin work on it. It carries a 15% weighting of the overall mark, and with the free brief composition it completes the CO2 component for the GCSE Music course.</p>
Half term 2	<p>Composing Music for Exam:</p> <p>Students will be taken through the composing process step by step. They will learn how to develop their rhythms, which will ultimately become their melody, and they will also learn how to structure the harmony within the key that they choose to write in. They will be using Sibelius software. Students will also be introduced to the listening exam this half term, and will get</p>	<p>Appraising Music:</p> <p>Whilst students will be focused mostly on their coursework for both CO1 Performing and CO2 Composing, they will also be looking ahead to their second full mock exam, which is weighted at 40% of the overall mark for the GCSE Music course. Students will be working on the Elemental platform to hone their recognition of numerous musical features, and will spend time analysing the 2 set works, which will also complement their composition coursework.</p>

	<p>some early practice on describing music using the Elemental platform.</p> <p>Students must compose 2 original compositions for the exam, and their combined weighting is 30% of the overall grade.</p>	<p>Students will be assessed for CO1: Appraising Music in a second full mock exam. This will take place in November. At least one full draft composition and one draft performance will also be submitted this term to form a more accurate predicted grade.</p>
<p>Half term 3</p>	<p>Analysing Music:</p> <p>Students will learn how to formally analyse a written piece of music in terms of its chord structure, cadences, melodic shape and composition. Students will explore more complex scales and chords, including extended chords, and will study the Circle of 5ths. Although the analysis is primarily aimed at the listening exam, it is also invaluable insight into how to compose music, especially effective melodic lines.</p> <p>Students will be introduced to the Western Classical Tradition Set Work towards the end of this half term, which is Badinerie by JS Bach for the 2026 and 2027 Exam.</p> <p>Students will be assessed for their Mid-Year at the end of this half term in performance. Students must perform at least one group and one solo performance with a combined duration of 4 minutes and it is weighted at 30% of the overall grade.</p>	<p>Coursework: CO1, Performing</p> <p>Whilst lessons will still be rotated between performance, theory/analysis, and composition, the main focus of this half term will be to produce a final set of performances which total 4 minutes to 6 minutes in length. One piece must be an ensemble piece and the others may be solos or additional ensembles. Students will continue to receive 1-2-1 specialist instrumental/ vocal support through the IVP. Students will also be preparing for a third full mock exam.</p> <p>Students will continue to work on their compositions using Sibelius and Guitar Pro software, and they will also continue using the Elemental platform to hone their appraising skills.</p> <p>In the event of a late Easter, the third full mock exam may take place at the end of this half term, rather than at the end of half term 4.</p>
<p>Half term 4</p>	<p>Describing Music:</p> <p>Students will learn how to describe music using appropriate musical vocabulary for the course. It will bring together all of their previous work on the Elemental platform. It looks towards their first proper Listening exam in half term 5 or 6, where they will be required to explain how the musical elements are used in certain contexts to reflect mood, purpose and venue. Students will also be expected to recognise musical features by ear, including rhythmic and melodic dictation.</p>	<p>Coursework Completion and Final Mock Exam</p> <p>Students will spend the majority of their time during this half term refining and finalising their CO1 and CO2 coursework, which carries a 60% weighting towards their final grade.</p> <p>Students will continue using the Elemental platform to hone their appraising skills ahead of the final mock and impending final exam next half term. They will also complete paperwork for the submission of their coursework, which will take at least one lesson.</p>

	<p>Students will be introduced to the Popular Music Set work towards the end of this half term, which is Africa by Toto for the 2026 and 2027 Exam.</p>	<p>In the event of an early Easter, the 3rd full mock exam may take place at the start of half term 4.</p>
<p>Half term 5</p>	<p>Advanced Composing for GCSE Music: Students will be taken through the process of modulation in music, exploring the circle of 5ths in more detail, and learning how pivot chords can be used to change key. Students will also explore more complex melodic development techniques such as inversion, and they will work on Sibelius and Guitar Pro software to create their original scores.</p> <p>Students will begin work on their actual composition coursework for CO2 during this term. This will be for their free brief, weighted at 15% of the overall marks.</p> <p>Students will be assessed for CO1: Appraising Music in a full mock exam.</p>	<p>Revision and Final Exam: Students will be working intensively on practice exam questions and will sit a final mock exam. The Elemental platform will form a large part of their revision, too.</p> <p>The final exam for CO1: Appraising Music will take place in this half term or within 2 weeks of the return after the summer half term holiday.</p>
<p>Half term 6</p>	<p>Coursework: CO2, Composing Whilst lessons will still be rotated between performance, theory/ analysis, and composition, the main focus of this half term will be to produce a full first draft of their free composition, which must be at least 2 minutes long with a proper written score.</p> <p>Students will continue to study the 2 set works in the theory lessons, which will complement their composition work as they study the use of proper phrase structure, cadences, and modulations.</p>	