Subject: Music Year 8

Kay Stage 3 Curriculum Plan

Year: 2026-2027

Department Information:

The Music Department is part of the larger Creative Arts Faculty. The department is led by the Head of Music Mr S Forster, with the support of the Associate Senior Leader for Creative Arts Ms N Killick. It is a busy department with the aim to instill a love of music in every student though a relaxed yet challenging atmosphere. Students are given every opportunity to perform and create both in the classroom and during free time. Music has a high profile within the school community and has an increasing number opting for GCSE Music and into Yr12. We work closely with music provider Musicscool to offer high quality instrumental tuition to support the development of students.

Curriculum aims and intent:

The music curriculum offers a broad and engaging curriculum with the aim to go above and beyond the requirements of the National Curriculum for music.

By the end of Year 8 students will:

- Use the musical elements studied in Yr7 to help create music
- Gain an understanding of the development of music from all musical periods including the work of the great composers.
- Develop ensemble and composition skills.
- Have an understanding of compositional devices

These will be explored with the use of three fertile questions which will shape the learning of every student:

1. How does a performer know what to play?
2. What techniques are used to compose music?
3. Does music improve or detract from a moving image?

Resources used to support learning:

BBC Bitesize – range of topics
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zmsvr82
Spotify – create own playlists
https://open.spotify.com/
Elemental - listening and home learning exercises
https://elementalmusic.app/

Home Learning:

Home learning will be set once a fortnight and will include a range of short projects, listening tasks and online music theory tasks. These will be linked to the current learning in lessons.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed after each question has been answered. Each assessment will include a written assessment based on the listening skills they have developed over time and a performance assessment.

Students will be expected to perform in small groups and solo to support building confidence and creating well rounded musicians.

How parents can help their child:

- Talk with your child about music that you enjoy.
- Why you like it and what emotion it has for you.
- Listen to music they are listening to and ask them question about it. Why do they like it? What is it about?
- Expose to live music where possible.

If possible, invest in instrumental lessons to support learning outside the classroom.

Term	Summary of work being covered	Knowledge, Understanding and skills assessed	How the work is assessed	Career Links
1	How does a performer know what to play?	Developing on from Year 7, students will use notation to explore the use of sophisticated musical techniques. This will include the formation of scales, chords, and the impact on tonality. Listening - Students will use 'the great composers' from a range of periods and genres to understand how compositional techniques are used and recognised. Differing notation forms will be introduced including guitar chords and TAB.	1.A written report on a range of different composers from different periods. Set as part of home learning 2. A Pop band performance of a song, using chords and performing as an ensemble as the focus. 3. Listening assessemnt	Session performer. Composer Pop artist
2				
3	Are cover songs better than the original?	KS3 students will explore cover songs and the development of ideas. Through performance, students will pick a song and explore the different chordal structures and styles. They will then develop the piece to make it their own. This will be through development of the musical elements, the style or the instrumentation.	1.Performance of a cover song as a small ensemble. 2. Listening task.	Arranger Song Writer
4				
5	What techniques are used to compose music?	Developing on from the performance task of terms 1-4, students will gain an understanding of how pop songs are created. In small bands students will compose and perform songs written in their groups. Students will develop an understanding of chord progressions, lyric writing and exploring different pop styles.	1.Mid point assess checking students progress will happen at the end of T5 2.Final performances will form the second assessment	Composer Band Manager Song Writer
6				