Curriculum Overview

Curriculum Area: Music Year: 9

Year 9 Curriculum:

Autumn Term: Film

Our Year 9 Music curriculum introduces key concepts showing how music creates meaning and emotion. Students explore leitmotif through film music like John Williams' Hedwig's Theme, while developing skills in concord and discord, intervals, and timbre. They also learn bass clef notation and study influential composers and their techniques for storytelling through music.

Focus piece:

- *Hedwig's Theme from Harry Potter – John Williams*

Spring Term: Bass

Students develop their understanding of bass lines by exploring riffs, pedals, and walking bass lines, alongside Alberti bass patterns across different genres. They learn to play and recognise arpeggios and broken chords, and to identify various bass line types, gaining insight into how they support harmony, rhythm, and musical style.

Focus piece:

- *Bass lines from different genres*

Summer Term: Song

Students explore the key features of pop music, including verse–chorus structure, lead sheets, and conjunct and disjunct melodies. They develop skills in creating bass line riffs and understanding texture, while learning to identify common characteristics across a variety of pop songs studied throughout the year.

Focus piece:

- *Shape of You – Ed Sheeran*
- *Shotgun – George Ezra*

Links to National Curriculum

- Perform on instruments and through singing, both individually and in groups
- Create their own music, including rhythms, melodies and chord progressions
- Listen to and explore music from a variety of cultures and traditions
- Work as part of an ensemble, developing teamwork and confidence
- Playing instruments such as keyboards and percussion
- Understanding how music works (rhythm, melody, harmony and structure)
- Reading and using basic musical notation
- Listening carefully and discussing music using appropriate vocabulary

Knowledge and understanding of this curriculum will be assessed by:

Assessment in Key Stage 3 music combines practical performance with ongoing checks of musical knowledge and understanding through listening tasks, questioning and short written responses. May include:

- Retrieval quizzes
- Listening questions
- Performance assessments based on accuracy, effort in practice and difficulty
- Audio recordings of practice performances and final performances

Powerful Knowledge/Cultural Capital Opportunities

- Develops understanding of film music and storytelling, exploring leitmotif through works by John Williams and other film music composers
- Builds knowledge of musical elements (intervals, timbre, concord/discord) to understand how music conveys emotion
- Broadens awareness of bass lines across genres, linking classical, jazz, and popular music styles
- Strengthens appreciation of music industry conventions, including pop song structure and songwriting techniques
- Encourages engagement with both traditional and contemporary music, from film scores to modern pop artists