

MUSIC

CURRICULUM 2018-19

KEY STAGE 3

The theme for Year 7 is 'Becoming a Musician', in which students explore the musical elements and reading staff notation through by composing and performing on various instruments. There are many performance units where students can explore pitch and rhythm using voice and percussion, reading music whilst performing piano pieces, understanding chords when performing on guitar, and understanding pop music. Students also develop their compositional skills by composing for cartoons in Year 7.

The theme in Year 8 is 'Musical Styles and Cultures' where they build upon prior knowledge and study music from various eras and cultures including film music, playing in a band, and the blues. As well as performing and improvising, these units include listening activities which prepare students for GCSE. Students also develop their compositional skills through composing for films.

Each topic is assessed in music with twelve formal assessments in total at Key Stage 3. Students complete a baseline test when they arrive and throughout the two years they are assessed on performance, composing, and listening/appraising.

There are lots of extra-curricular opportunities available for all students including choir, group woodwind, string group, brass group, and music technology club. Following the success of our productions *We Will Rock You*, *Annie*, *Our House* and other concerts including the 'Shuttleworth Showcase', we hope to continue to give students as many opportunities to perform as possible. We also encourage musicians to take part in the very popular Friday Lunch Concerts.

KEY STAGE 4

At Key Stage 4, students will follow the specification for GCSE Eduqas Music.

GCSE Music is divided into three strands: composing, performing, and listening.

- In the performance aspect, students will develop their performance skills on a solo instrument of their choice or their voice. They will also perform with an ensemble. These make up the two final assessed performances, which count for 30% of the overall GCSE grade.

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- In the composition aspect, students will compose two pieces of music based on genres of different areas of study. One is a free composition and one is set to a brief by Eduqas. These pieces make up 30% of the final GCSE grade.
- In the listening exam, which makes up 40% of the final GCSE grade, Year 11 students are given excerpts of different set works from the four areas of study which are covered throughout the course. These are:
 - AOS1 – Musical Forms and Devices
 - AOS2 – Music for Ensemble
 - AOS3 – Film Music
 - AOS4 – Popular Music

GCSE students are encouraged to take part in as many extra-curricular opportunities as possible. At Key Stage 4, students also receive free instrumental lessons which are delivered by our peripatetic teachers on a range of instruments. There are also opportunities to gain extra qualifications during music theory club and music technology club using the 'Rock College' syllabus.