



Music

Key Stage 3

In Key Stage 3 students study the following topics:

Year 7:

In Year 7, our students start with group performances and compositions to build skills of working together and listening carefully to each other. This moves into more complex use of rhythm including box and traditional notation, chair drumming and then into African music including polyrhythms. The pupils also have an introduction to using a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) and to using the keyboard and various notations for pitch through this unit and Graphic Scores. We also aim to include singing every lesson with Year 7. By the end of Year 7 pupils have a good grounding in rhythmic skills, are able to find their way round the keyboard and sing with increasing expression and have the skills to use music technology to create and develop their ideas further. They are aware of the elements that make up a piece of music, a variety of notations and have knowledge of several great composers and performers.

In Year 7 students study the following topics:

- The Elements of Music
- Rhythm
- African Music
- Introduction to using a DAW
- Keyboard Skills
- Instruments of the Orchestra and Graphic Scores

Year 8:

In Year 8, our students develop their music technology skills further, revisit, and extend their rhythmic and ensemble skills using Samba drumming. Pupils learn about harmony through intervals and then major chords which they then use and develop through projects on Blues and Reggae and Calypso. They learn skills in improvisation and how to use riffs. By the end of Year 8, pupils have developed their music technology skills to include some note input using the grid, and have an understanding of chords on both the ukulele and the keyboard. They are aware of how chords are constructed. They have knowledge about the history and importance of blues and some of the most influential Blues, Reggae and Calypso composers.

In Year 8 students study the following topics:

- Using a DAW 2
- Samba
- Intervals and Chords
- Blues, Reggae and Calypso

Year 9:

In Year 9, students develop their use of chords and they use an extended range of chords. They compose, perform and listen to increasingly complex music. They develop their understanding of techniques used in minimalism and Indian Classical music. By the end of Year 9, pupils have learnt a range of chords and their uses including minor and diminished chords. They have discovered inversions, different rhythm patterns and bass lines. They are able to compose more complex music to create a mood with a film clip and are able to build up tension within a film score. They have a good understanding of Indian Classical music and minimalism. They are aware of some of the major developments and changes in film music, and have a good knowledge of some of the most influential musicians in Film, Minimalism and Indian Classical music.

In Year 9 students study the following topics:

- 4 chord song
- Film Music
- Using a DAW 3
- Indian Music
- Minimalism
- DJ skills/Band skills