

KS3 Curriculum Overview Music

Year 7

TERM 1		*Key Skills/Subject Links	*Career links & BV
Week 1	TOPIC: Marimba – Instrumental skill Baseline test based on KS2 music theory Introduction to Music	<p>Play and Perform – Pupils learn the correct posture, stick hold and where to strike the notes. They perform as an ensemble and also as soloists. Introducing accuracy.</p> <p>Improvise and compose – Students create their own answering rhythms.</p> <p>Notation – notes on the treble clef. Rhythmic notation.</p> <p>Listening, Genres and History – Minimalism – Steve Reich, Philip Glass, John Adams, Michael Nyman.</p> <p>Musical devices – Controlling dynamics while playing. Timing through counting rests. Tone quality.</p> <p>Cross curricular links – Minimalism in Art. Fractions and sub divisions in Maths and Dance. Graphical representations of information linking to science, maths and geography. Key vocabulary and opinions linking to English. Critical thinking.</p>	<p>Students are encouraged to work in ensembles, promoting mutual respect and democracy by taking an active role in group work.</p> <p>This also builds confidence and can be useful in many jobs by developing communication skills, and problem solving.</p> <p>This topic also introduces World Music, studying African traditions and instrumentation such as the Marimba. This promotes mutual respect and tolerance of other faiths and cultures.</p>
Week 2	Theory - Rhythm & Pulse(Focus on Ravel and Debussy) links with Impressionism in Art Practical – Marimba		
Week 3	Theory - Rhythm & Pulse – African Drumming (Black History Month) Links to African Dance and African Mask project in Art Practical – Marimba		
Week 4	Theory – Melody & Pitch Practical – Marimba		
Week 5	Theory – Melody & Pitch Practical – Marimba		
Week 6	Term 1 listening test (Milestone 1)		
Week 7	Marimba Assessment		

TERM 2	TOPIC: Guitar – Instrumental skill Theory – Tempo and Dynamics	Play and Perform – Pupils learn the correct posture, how to hold the Guitar and the correct way of holding the strings down to produce the best sound. They perform as an ensemble, in small groups and also as soloists. Singing skills are explored.	Students are encouraged to work in ensembles, promoting mutual respect and democracy by taking an active role in group work.
Week 1	Theory – Tempo Practical – Guitar		
Week 2	Theory – Tempo with a focus on African Music to link with African Dance Practical – Guitar		
Week 3	Theory – Dynamics Practical – Guitar		Students are encouraged to take a critical approach when working with others to build mutual respect and critical evaluation skills
Week 4	Theory – Dynamics Practical – Guitar		
Week 5	Term 2 listening test		
Week 6	Guitar Assessment	<p>Introducing accuracy.</p> <p>Improvise and compose – Exploring and creating own dynamics for different sections of the song.</p> <p>Notation – Reading chord diagrams.</p> <p>Listening, Genres and History – A variety of Genres and composers through history to illustrate tempo and dynamic indications.</p> <p>Musical devices – Song Structure. Timbre, Instrumentation, Controlling dynamics while playing. Timing through counting rests and keeping to a backing track. Tone quality. Exploring the use of chords.</p> <p>Cross curricular links – MFL, Italian vocabulary for tempo and dynamics. Key theory is also linked to dance. Graphical representations of information linking to science, maths and geography. Amplification of sound linking to science.</p>	

TERM 3	TOPIC: Marimba – Developing instrumental skill through levelled pieces Theory – Notation and Structure	Play and Perform – Pupils learn and develop correct playing technique. They perform as an ensemble and also as soloists. Pupils work in pairs, one playing the melody and one playing the bass line for this ensemble skills focused piece. Developing accuracy.	We explore The Beatles and how they promoted freedom of speech linked to democracy . This is also linked to mutual respect . The use of notation encourages students to use problem solving , communication , and analytical skills that could be useful in other careers
Week 1	Theory – Notation (Using Note Maps and Reading Notes) Practical – Marimba Topic of friendship and anti- bullying, linking to PD		
Week 2	Theory – Notation (Using Note Maps and Reading Notes) Practical – Marimba		
Week 3	Theory – Harmony Practical – Marimba		
Week 4	Theory – Harmony Practical – Marimba		
Week 5	Term 3 listening test (Milestone 2)		

Week 6	Marimba Assessment	<p>Improvise and compose – Theoretical knowledge applied to creative development.</p> <p>Notation – Using note maps and development of reading standard notation.</p> <p>Listening, Genres and History – Pop Music links to GCSE specification The Beatles set work and area of study.</p> <p>Musical devices – Dynamics. Timing Tempo, Harmony, Structure.</p> <p>Cross curricular links – Ensemble in Dance. Graphical representations of information linking to science, maths and geography. Key vocabulary and opinions linking to English. Critical thinking.</p>	
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TERM 4	TOPIC: Guitar – Developing instrumental skill through levelled pieces Theory – Notation and Structure	Play and Perform – Pupils develop the correct posture and develop their tone. They perform as an ensemble and as soloists. Singing skills are developed. Developing accuracy.	Students are encouraged to work in ensembles, promoting mutual respect and democracy by taking an active role in group work.
Week 1	Theory – Notation (TAB) Practical – Guitar		
Week 2	Theory – Notation (TAB) Practical – Guitar		
Week 3	Theory – Structure Practical – Guitar		
Week 4	Theory – Structure in Film Music linking in with the Harry Potter topic in Drama Practical – Guitar	Improvise and compose – Exploring composition structural	A number of key skills are needed for this topic including problem solving, organisational skills, perseverance , and the ability to work proactively as an individual .
Week 5	Term 4 listening test		

Week 6	Guitar Assessment	<p>devices</p> <p>Notation – Reading Guitar TAB.</p> <p>Listening, Genres and History – A variety of Genres and composers through history to illustrate structural devices.</p> <p>Musical devices – Structure. Timbre, Instrumentation, Controlling dynamics while playing. Timing through counting rests and keeping to a backing track. Tone quality.</p> <p>Cross curricular links – Graphical representations of information linking to science, maths and geography. Repeating patterns as a structural device links to maths.</p>	
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TERM 5	TOPIC: Marimba – Developing instrumental skill through levelled pieces	Play and Perform – Pupils develop correct posture, stick hold and where to strike the notes. They perform as an ensemble and also as soloists. Developing Accuracy.	Students are encouraged to work in ensembles, promoting mutual respect and democracy by taking an active role in group work.
Week 1	Theory – String Instruments Practical – Marimba	Improvise and compose – Timbre in	This also builds confidence and can be useful in many jobs by developing communication skills , and problem solving .
Week 2	Theory – Woodwind Instruments Practical – Marimba		
Week 3	Theory – Percussion Instruments Practical – Marimba		
Week 4	Theory – Brass Instruments Practical – Marimba		

Week 5	End of Year listening exam (Milestone 3)	<p>composition.</p> <p>Notation – This piece is learnt through reading the notes from standard notation for themselves.</p> <p>Listening, Genres and History – Timbre is explored through a variety of genres and key composers through history. Development of classical music.</p> <p>Musical devices – Structure. Timbre, texture, Instrumentation, Controlling dynamics while playing. Timing through counting rests. Tone quality.</p> <p>Cross curricular links – History classical eras. MFL Italian terms for musical vocabulary. Graphical representations of information linking to science, maths and geography.</p>	
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TERM 6	TOPIC: Guitar – Developing instrumental skill through levelled pieces Theory: Genres and World Music	Play and Perform – Pupils develop posture and tone production They perform as an ensemble, in small groups and also as soloists. Singing skills	Studying genres of music from across the world and the origins of the music encourages mutual respect, tolerance of faith, democracy, and individual liberty.
Week 1	Theory – Blues Music Practical – Guitar		
Week 2	Theory – Motown Music Practical – Guitar		
Week 3	Term 4 listening test		

<p>Week 4</p>	<p>Guitar Assessment</p>	<p>are explored. Developing accuracy.</p> <p>Improvise and compose – Blues structure in composition</p> <p>Notation – Reading chord diagrams.</p> <p>Listening, Genres and History – Links to GCSE Blues music and Motown music.</p> <p>Musical devices – Structure. Timbre, Instrumentation, Controlling dynamics while playing. Timing through counting rests and keeping to a backing track. Tone quality. Exploring the use of chords.</p> <p>Cross curricular links – MFL, Italian vocabulary. Key theory is also linked to dance. Graphical representations of information linking to science, maths and geography.</p>	
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Rollover			
Week 5	Music history: Analyzing Baroque recordings (with a focus on Opera) – links to Musical Theatre topic in Dance	Listening, Genres and History – Links to GCSE Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods of music. Musical devices – Structure. Timbre, Instrumentation, dynamics, tempo, key characteristics of each genre. Cross curricular links – MFL, Italian vocabulary. Key theory is also linked to dance. Graphical representations of information linking to science, maths and geography.	
Week 6	Music history: Analyzing Classical recordings (with a focus on Opera)		
Week 7	Music history: Analyzing Romantic recordings (with a focus on Opera)		

YEAR 8

TERM 1		*Key Skills/Subject Links	*Career links & BV
Week 1	TOPIC: World Music Year 8 Theory Test (Year 7 recap) Practical – Marimba Developing instrumental skill through levelled pieces	Play and Perform – Pupils develop correct posture, stick hold and where to strike the notes. They perform as an ensemble and also as soloists. Developing Accuracy. Improvise and compose – Rhythmic compositional devices. Notation – This piece is	This topic also introduces World Music, studying African and Indian traditions. This promotes mutual respect and tolerance of other faiths and cultures . Students are also encouraged to work as an ensemble exploring instruments and music from other cultures. This encourages critical thinking
Week 2	Theory – African Music (Black History Month) Practical – Marimba		
Week 3	Theory – African Music Practical – Marimba		
Week 4	Theory – Indian Music Practical – Marimba		
Week 5	Theory – Indonesian Music Practical – Marimba		
Week 6	Term 1 listening test (Milestone 1)		

Week 7	Marimba Assessment	<p>learnt through reading the notes from standard notation for themselves. Graphical notation.</p> <p>Listening, Genres and History – World Music</p> <p>Musical devices – Rhythm, Structure. Timbre, texture, Instrumentation, Controlling dynamics while playing. Timing through counting rests. Tone quality.</p> <p>Cross curricular links – World music - Geography MFL Italian terms for musical vocabulary. Graphical representations of information linking to science, maths and geography.</p>	and allows them to explore other cultures, promoting mutual respect and tolerance of other faiths and cultures .
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TERM 2	TOPIC: Blues Music Practical – Guitar Developing instrumental skill through levelled pieces	Play and Perform – Pupils develop posture and tone production They perform as an ensemble, in small groups and also as soloists. Developing accuracy.	Studying genres of music from across the world and the origins of the music encourages mutual respect, tolerance of faith, democracy, and individual liberty .
Week 1	Theory – 12-Bar Blues Practical – Guitar	Improvise and compose – Blues structure in composition	Improvising encourages students to have individual liberty as well as mutual respect for others improvising
Week 2	Theory – History of the Blues (Black History Month) – Links with Drama and RE (Human Rights and Freedom of Speech) Practical – Guitar	Notation – Reading chord diagrams.	
Week 3	Theory – Blues influences Practical – Guitar		
Week 4	Theory – How to improvise over a chord sequence Practical – Guitar		

Week 5	Term 2 listening test		
Week 6	Guitar Assessment	<p>Listening, Genres and History – Links to GCSE Blues music and the history of the Blues. Key composers Lead Belly, Blind Lemon Jefferson, Robert Johnson. BB King, Eric Clapton.</p> <p>Musical devices – Structure. Timbre, Instrumentation, Controlling dynamics while playing. Timing through counting rests and keeping to a backing track. Tone quality. Exploring the use of chords.</p> <p>Cross curricular links – Key theory is also linked to dance. Graphical representations of information linking to science, maths and geography. History of African slaves, work songs.</p>	

TERM 3	TOPIC: Baroque Music Practical – Marimba Developing instrumental skill through levelled pieces	Play and Perform – Pupils develop correct posture, stick hold and where to strike the notes. They perform as an ensemble and also as soloists and in a duet.	Studying the history of music allows students to explore how times have changed, especially in terms of the law in music and individual liberty .
Week 1	Theory – History of Baroque music Practical – Marimba	Developing Accuracy.	This also encourages students to think about the tolerance of different faiths and beliefs and how this has developed over the years in
Week 2	Theory – Baroque composers (J.S. Bach) Practical – Marimba	Improvise and compose – structural devices.	
Week 3	Theory – Baroque features (instruments) Practical – Marimba	Sequences, imitation.	
Week 4	Theory – Baroque features (ornaments) Practical – Marimba		
Week 5	Term 3 listening test (Milestone 2)		

Week 6	Marimba Assessment	<p>Notation – This piece is learnt through reading the notes from standard notation for themselves.</p> <p>Listening, Genres and History – Links to GCSE Baroques music features. Key composers, Bach, Handel.</p> <p>Musical devices – Rhythm, Structure. Timbre, texture, Instrumentation, Harmony, Controlling dynamics while playing. Timing through counting rests. Tone quality.</p> <p>Cross curricular links – MFL Italian terms for musical vocabulary. Graphical representations of information linking to science, maths and geography. History.</p>	Europe.
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TERM 4	TOPIC: Rock Music	Play and Perform –	Students are encouraged to
	Practical – Guitar Developing instrumental skill through levelled pieces	Pupils develop posture and tone production	work in ensembles, promoting mutual respect and democracy by taking an active role in group work.
Week 1	Theory – Rock influences linking with the Rock n Roll topic in Dance Practical – Guitar	They perform as an ensemble, in small groups and also as soloists. Singing skills are explored. Developing accuracy.	
Week 2	Theory – Instrumental effects Practical – Guitar		A number of key skills are needed for this topic including problem solving ,
Week 3	Theory – Creating chord sequences Practical – Guitar		

Week 4	Theory – Writing lyrics Practical – Guitar	Improvise and compose – Writing lyrics, chord sequences, instrumental effects. Notation – Reading guitar TAB. Lead sheets. Listening, Genres and History – Links to GCSE Rock music. Key composers Jeff Buckley. Musical devices – Structure. Timbre, Instrumentation, Controlling dynamics while playing. Timing through counting rests and keeping to a backing track. Tone quality. Exploring the use of chords.	organisational skills, perseverance, and the ability to work proactively as an individual.
Week 5	Term 4 listening test		
Week 6	Guitar Assessment		
TERM 5	TOPIC: Classical Music Practical – Marimba Developing instrumental skill through levelled pieces	Play and Perform – Pupils develop correct posture, stick hold and where to strike the notes. They perform as an ensemble and also as soloists and in a duet. Developing Accuracy. Improvise and compose – the use of structural devices and timbre. Notation – This piece is learnt through reading the notes from standard notation for themselves. Listening, Genres and History – Links to GCSE Classical music features.	Studying the history of music allows students to explore how times have changed, especially in terms of the law in music and individual liberty. This also encourages students to think about the tolerance of different faiths and beliefs and how this has developed over the years in Europe
Week 1	Theory – History of Classical music Practical – Marimba		
Week 2	Theory – Classical Composers (Haydn) Practical – Marimba		
Week 3	Theory – Classical Composers (Mozart) Practical – Marimba		
Week 4	Theory – Classical features Practical – Marimba		
Week 5	End of Year listening exam (Milestone 3)		

		<p>Key composers, Mozart, Haydn.</p> <p>Musical devices – Rhythm, Structure. Timbre, texture, Instrumentation, Harmony, Controlling dynamics while playing. Timing through counting rests. Tone quality.</p> <p>Cross curricular links – MFL Italian terms for musical vocabulary. Graphical representations of information linking to science, maths and geography. History.</p>	
TERM 6	Topic: Introducing GCSE Theory Practical – Guitar Developing instrumental skill through levelled pieces	<p>Play and Perform – Pupils develop posture and tone production They perform as an ensemble, in small groups and also as soloists. Singing skills are explored. Developing accuracy.</p> <p>Notation – Reading guitar TAB. Lead sheets. Chord diagrams</p> <p>Listening, Genres and History – Links to GCSE Theory. Deepening prior learning.</p> <p>Musical devices – Structure. Timbre, Instrumentation, Controlling dynamics while playing. Timing through counting rests and keeping to a backing track. Tone quality. Exploring the use of chords.</p>	Studying the theory of music and applying it to their own instrument requires skills such as problem solving, analysis, and perseverance, and resilience . All of which are key skills that can be used in the workplace.
Week 1	Theory – Rhythm & Metre Practical – Guitar		
Week 2	Theory – Harmony & Tonality Practical – Guitar		
Week 3	Theory – Texture & Melody Practical – Guitar		
Week 4	Theory – Timbre & Dyanmics Practical – Guitar		
Rollover			
Week 5	Topic: Introduction to KS4 courses		

	Performing Music	Play and Perform – Students perform their compositions to the class. Improvise and compose – Composition focus. Chords and melodies, Lyrics and structure. Cross curricular links – Creativity. Graphical representation linking to maths. Writing lyrics linking to poetry writing in English.	
Week 6	Theory – Composing Music Chords & Melodies		
Week 7	Theory – Composing Music Lyrics & Structure Final Class Performance		

Year 9

TERM 1		*Key Skills/Subject Links	*Career links & BV
Week 1	TOPIC: Solo performance Practical: Solo Performance	<p>Play and Perform – Pupils select the instrument that they feel best at and develop performance skills on that instrument.</p> <p>Btec Links – selecting repertoire, skills audit, rehearsal skills and techniques.</p> <p>GCSE Links – Developing performance skills. Accuracy, technique development</p> <p>Cross curricular links –. Graphical representations of information linking to science, maths and geography. Key vocabulary and opinions linking to English. Critical thinking. Self-awareness. Leading own learning.</p>	<p>This topic requires students to work proactively and encourages them to develop their own skills individually.</p> <p>They also need to take responsibility of their own technical development as a musician.</p>
Week 2	Theory: Choosing repertoire Practical: Solo Performance		
Week 3	Theory: Skills Audit Practical: Solo Performance		
Week 4	Theory: Developing rehearsal skills Practical: Solo Performance		
Week 5	Theory: Developing technique Practical: Solo Performance		
Week 6	Theory: Developing confidence Practical: Solo Performance		
Week 7	Assessment: Solo Performance		
TERM 2	TOPIC: Ensemble performance	<p>Play and Perform – Developing performance skills on that instrument. Working as a member of an ensemble</p> <p>Btec Links – selecting repertoire, rehearsal skills and techniques, Working in an ensemble</p> <p>GCSE Links – Developing performance skills. Accuracy, technique development, ensemble performance</p> <p>Cross curricular links –. Graphical representations of information linking to science, maths and</p>	<p>Students are encouraged to work in ensembles, promoting mutual respect and democracy by taking an active role in group work.</p> <p>This also builds confidence and can be useful in many jobs by developing communication skills, and problem solving.</p>
Week 1	Theory: Rehearsing as an ensemble Practical: Ensemble Performance		
Week 2	Theory: Choosing repertoire Practical: Ensemble Performance		
Week 3	Theory: Accuracy and Timing Practical: Ensemble Performance		
Week 4	Theory: Musical Communication Practical: Ensemble Performance		
Week 5	Theory: Performing as an ensemble Practical: Ensemble Performance		
Week 6	Assessment: Ensemble Performance		

		geography. Key vocabulary and opinions linking to English. Critical thinking. Self-awareness. Leading own learning. Team work.	
TERM 3	TOPIC: Composing Music	Play and Perform – Students perform their compositions to the class. Improvise and compose – Composition focus. Chord sequences, Lyrics and melody. Structure Btec Links – Unit 4 composition. GCSE Links – composing unit. Cross curricular links – Creativity. Graphical representation linking to maths. Writing lyrics linking to poetry writing in English.	Studying the theory of music and applying it to their own instrument requires skills such as problem solving, analysis, and perseverance, and resilience. All of which are key skills that can be used in the workplace.
Week 1	Theory: Writing a chord sequence Practical: Writing a chord sequence for guitar / piano		
Week 2	Theory: Writing lyrics and a melody Practical: Putting a melody with a chord sequence		
Week 3	Theory: Song Structure Practical: Writing a verse		
Week 4	Theory: Song Structure Practical: Writing a chorus		
Week 5	Theory: Song Structure Practical: Completing compositions		
Week 6	Assessment: Composition performance		
TERM 4	TOPIC: GCSE Music Theory	Play and Perform – Pupils develop posture and tone production on their instruments. They perform as soloists. Developing accuracy. Notation – Reading guitar TAB. Lead sheets. Chord diagrams. Standard notation GCSE Links – Theory exam. Musical devices – Structure. Timbre, Instrumentation, Controlling dynamics while playing. Timing through counting rests and keeping to a backing track. Tone quality.	In this topic we look at how music theory has developed over the years in different cultures, promoting mutual respect and tolerance of faith. Studying the theory of music and applying it to their own instrument requires skills such as problem solving, analysis, and perseverance, and resilience. All of which are key skills that can be used in the workplace.
Week 1	Theory: Rhythm & Metre Practical: Solo Performance		
Week 2	Theory: Harmony & Tonality Practical: Solo Performance		
Week 3	Theory: Texture & Melody Practical: Solo Performance		
Week 4	Theory: Timbre & Dynamics Practical: Solo Performance		
Week 5	Theory: Structure & Form Practical: Solo Performance		
Week 6	Assessment: Solo Performance		

		Cross curricular links – Creativity. Graphical representation linking to maths. Developing key musical language and class discussion linking with English. Critical thinking and analysis.	
TERM 5	TOPIC: The Music Industry	Play and Perform – Pupils develop posture and tone production on their instruments. They perform in ensembles. Developing accuracy.	In this topic we look at different roles within the industry and the key skills you would need to perform that role, such as communication, analytical skills, IT skills, organization, leadership, and commercial awareness
Week 1	Theory: Music industry venues Practical: Ensemble Performance		
Week 2	Theory: Roles within the music industry Practical: Ensemble Performance		
Week 3	Theory: Music organisations Practical: Ensemble Performance		
Week 4	Music Industry Test	Notation – Reading guitar TAB. Lead sheets. Chord diagrams. Standard notation	
Week 5	Assessment: Ensemble Performance	BTEC Links – Theory exam.	
		Musical devices – Structure. Timbre, Instrumentation, Controlling dynamics while playing. Timing through counting rests and keeping to a backing track. Tone quality.	
		Cross curricular links – Creativity. Graphical representation linking to maths. Developing key musical language and class discussion linking with English. Critical thinking and analysis. Breaking down questions linking with exam skills.	
TERM 6	TOPIC: Music Appraising	Listening, Genres and History – Links to GCSE Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods, pop and traditional music.	This topic also introduces music from other genres and cultures from around the world. This promotes mutual respect and tolerance of other faiths and cultures .
Week 1	Theory: Western classical tradition 1650 – 1910		
Week 2	Theory: Popular music		
Week 3	Theory: Traditional music		
Week 4	Music Appraising Test	Musical devices – Structure. Timbre, Instrumentation,	

		<p>dynamics, tempo, key characteristics of each genre.</p> <p>Cross curricular links – MFL, Italian vocabulary. Key theory is also linked to dance. Graphical representations of information linking to science, maths and geography.</p>	
Rollover			
Week 5	Class concert: solo performances	<p>Play and Perform – class concert of solo and ensemble pieces.</p> <p>Developing performance confidence and accuracy.</p> <p>GCSE Links – Performance coursework.</p> <p>BTEC Links – Unit 5 performance coursework.</p> <p>Cross curricular links – Performing in public, confidence, evaluation, critical thinking.</p>	
Week 6	Class concert: ensemble performances		
Week 7	Final Class Performance		

