



Music – Curriculum Intent Statement

Plato: “Music is the movement of sound to reach the soul for the education of its virtue.”

In Music, our intent is to instil and foster a passion and understanding of Music in our students at Key Stage 3. Our goal is for students to leave our curriculum able to access a variety of paths into a music-enriched life. We aim to provide opportunities for musicians of all styles and abilities within the curriculum and in the concerts we offer - across the Performing Arts subjects and the liturgical obligations in our school.

We aim to meet the demands of the National Curriculum and teach Performing, Composing and Listening/Appraising through the exploration of Popular Music, Classical Music and World Music styles. Catering for students who do not receive external music lessons is always a starting point in each scheme of work but, for those who do have instrumental tuition either inside or outside school, students are always encouraged to bring instruments in to lessons or to sing so that they are able to reach more advanced, expressive musical levels.

While we intend for the curriculum to build in complexity from the start of Year 7 to the end of year 8, composition strands in others (such as Song-Writing, Music for Adverts) and performances (given in different sized ensembles) our intention is to demystify the musicmaking process (for example, sheet music is issued with note names under note-heads, and note finder sheets are displayed around classrooms and rehearsal areas to aid students’ initial understanding of the layout of keyboards. Students in Year 8 use the foundation of their Year 7 techniques to compose their own music (in groups of four). Those students that have instrumental lessons are given the opportunity to undergo nationally recognised ABRSM Music exams or equivalent and this enables them to progress further in their musical journeys, albeit inside and/or outside the school environment. It is also imperative for students to have a recognised level of musicality in order to progress to GCSE Music in Year 9.

We intend for our curriculum to support our extra-curricular ensembles (and vice-versa). Whenever students are spotted performing well, we encourage them to perform at a higher, more impactful level in our concerts and to join ensembles such as one of our two choirs and students who sing in choir are always encouraged to use their skills in lessons so that outcomes better reflect their true abilities. The concert calendar is planned to be inclusive, students receiving instrumental lessons and those who enjoy and have an aptitude for music performance, have the opportunity to play solos in our proposed charity concert, scheduled for the summer term. Those students who consider themselves to be rock and pop performers are encouraged to form small ‘bands’ and have the opportunity to play in our annual ‘Snowcase’ concert, which showcases talent across the Performing Arts subjects of Music, Dance and Drama. Finally, those who demonstrate a competent vocal ability are actively encouraged to partake in our concerts and our annual school musical either as an ensemble singer or a solo role within the show.

Bob Marley: “One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain.”