

# Year 9 Music pre-GCSE Course



## Aims:

The curriculum in Music at Year 9 is designed with two goals in mind.

1. To provide a balanced and broad range of study for pupils who choose music which enhances and builds upon the work undertaken in Years 7 and 8.
2. To lay the foundations for further study at GCSE level.

The work is based around the core skills of performing, composing and listening and appraising and there is the opportunity to practice these skills in a range of contexts.

## Topics Covered:

There are five units of work, these are:

1. Music for Film with special focus on composing music for a scene from a film
2. Music for Dancing with special focus on chords, keys, rhythm patterns and structures found in the Waltz
3. The Blues with special focus on improvisation
4. Song Writing with special focus on melody writing
5. Musical Sequences with a special focus on the use of Music Technology

There will also be the opportunity to further develop the skills learnt during the Bands Alive Challenge of Year 8.

As well as improving performing, composing and listening skills pupils will also use computers to aid their work. This will include becoming familiar with the Sibelius notation software and using Reason to compose and record.

The course is suitable for all who have a genuine interest in music and should be seriously considered by any pupil who is thinking of choosing music as a GCSE option.

## Teaching Groups:

Year 9 Students are taught in mixed ability groups of around twenty.

## Assessment:

Assessment is in line with School and National Policy and uses the GCSE grades.

## How Parents and Carers can help:

- \* Many students will work on their song writing or performance at home, writing lyrics, melodies, or just generally playing around with chords and riffs, and this is to be encouraged.
- \* Some students will use other music technology programmes at home, and this is also good for developing new skills. Where students produce music at home they are encouraged to bring a recorded sample in to Music, so that they can share their experiences and expertise
- \* Encourage students to participate in extra music clubs:
  - Lower School Choir – everyone who enjoys singing is welcome
  - Lower School Wind Band- Woodwind and Brass instruments.

# Year 8 Challenges - Music

## Aims:

- \* To improve musicianship.
- \* To listen to a variety of music and develop aural skills.
- \* To improve cultural understanding.
- \* To become more fluent in performing and composing.
- \* To use different music notations more effectively as relevant to the task.
- \* To work with others in developing their musical skills.



Music is part of the Challenges choices that pupils make to design their own curriculum.

## Topics Covered:

There are two Music Challenges to choose from:

1. Bands Alive
2. Beat It Mix It Groove It

In **Bands Alive** pupils work in small groups in a Band.



They will have the opportunity to learn a range of instruments such as guitar, bass, drum kit and keyboards and you may also bring in your own instruments if you wish.

This challenge is open to all students who enjoy music, those who already play instruments and those who are prepared to have a go. There will also be an opportunity for budding vocalists, but there's no pressure to sing if it's not your scene!

Practical elements will include:

- Playing real instruments
- Playing your choice of music
- Working in a Band
- Singing with friends

In **Beat It Mix It Groove It** pupils will work in pairs.

In this challenge pupils will be taught how to record their own loops, make their own drum beats and design their own synth sounds before finally creating their own track in whatever style they like using the industry standard music production software, Reason 7.

## Teaching Groups:

Year 8 students are taught in mixed ability groups with a maximum size of 20 for Bands Alive and 18 for Beat It Mix It Groove It.

## Assessment:

Assessment is in line with School and National Policy and uses the GCSE grades.

## How Parents and Carers can help:

- \* Encourage students to practice keyboard skills at home if they have a keyboard. Also to learn the basics which they need for lessons – notes on music lines, note lengths, music vocabulary, notes on the keyboard.
- \* Listen to lots of different styles of music at home.
- \* Support and encourage students to practice regularly if they have instrumental or vocal lessons, by listening to them play occasionally and taking an interest in the music which they are working on for their lessons.
- \* Encourage students to participate in extra music clubs:
  - Lower School Choir – no audition, everyone welcome.
  - Lower School Wind Band – all woodwind and brass players.
 All players are encouraged to participate, whether they have lessons in school or out of school.

## Year 7 Music

### Aims:

- \* To learn about music through composing, performing and listening activities.
- \* To listen to a variety of both western and world music.
- \* To improve keyboard skills.
- \* To read and write basic music notation (notes and rhythms).
- \* To work with others in developing their musical skills.



### Topics Covered:

There are four Units of work in Year 7 which aim to progress all pupils from those with no prior experience of music to those who are talented multi-instrumentalists.

Unit 1: Stomp! Focusing on rhythm, pulse and the Elements of Music

Unit 2: The Four Chord Trick; focusing on keyboard performance skills, melody, chords and improvisation.

Unit 3: Scary Music; focusing on performing Phantom of the Opera, how music can create a mood through composition and the chromatic scale.

Unit 4: Film/Cartoon Music; focusing on music for moving image, techniques of "Mikey Mousing", major and minor scales and composing music for a short extract of film or cartoon.



### Teaching Groups:

Year 7 students are taught in mixed ability groups of around twenty-three



### Assessment:

Assessment is in line with School and National Policy and uses the GCSE grades.. Students are assessed in the first term on listening and practical activities, and this provides the basis for their Key Stage 3 target level.

### How Parents and Carers can help:

- \* Ensure that students have a pencil and rubber for the lessons.
- \* Encourage students to practice keyboard skills at home if they have a keyboard.
- \* Listen to lots of different styles of music at home.

\* Support and encourage students to practice regularly if they have instrumental or vocal lessons, by listening to them play occasionally and taking an interest in the music which they are working on for their lessons.

\* Encourage students to learn the basics which they need for the lessons at home if they do not already know them – notes on music lines, note lengths, music vocabulary, and notes on the keyboard.

\* Encourage students to participate in extra-curricular music clubs:  
*Lower School Choir* – no audition necessary, everyone welcome  
*Lower School Wind Band* – all woodwind and brass players

\* All players are encouraged to participate, whether they have lessons in school or out of school

