

Year 7 Music

Autumn: Half term 1 Elements of Music	We start year 7 by exploring the building blocks of music. We find out about the elements that combine to make music work and learn about pitch, duration, dynamics and texture. Practical tasks will include rhythm games, singing and composing in groups using percussion instruments.
Half term 2 Celebration Music	This unit looks at how music is used in different types of celebration. We will identify different events & occasions throughout the year where music is used to help people celebrate. By the end of term students will be performing & recording Christmas Carols on keyboards and ukuleles.
Spring: Half term 1 Ostinato	Repetition is used in all styles of music. Students will learn how to identify and perform repeated patterns (known as ostinatos) in different styles of music. They will work in pairs & groups to prepare and performance based on an ostinato.
Half term 2 Rhythmic Development	Building on the work done so far, we will explore note values & more complicated rhythms using crotchets, quavers & rests. Students will become familiar with rhythmic notation & perform some basic drum kit rhythms.
Summer: Half term 1 Minimalism	Taking inspiration form the music of minimalist composer Steve Riech, students will listen to several pieces of minimalist music before composing their own group minimalist piece based on some of Riech's ideas and techniques.
Half term 2 Step and Leap	The final unit of year 7 looks at how melodies are constructed and what it is that makes a good tune. Students will perform tunes and examine how they move by step & leap. Using these ideas, they will then compose their own melody.



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Year 8 Music

Autumn: Half term 1 Music from India	Year 8 starts with exploring music from other cultures. Indian music is based on a different rhythmic and melodic system that students will learn about as they perform and compose their own Ragas.
Half term 2 African Music	The music of West Africa uses rhythms performed on drums called djembes. Students will learn how to play the djembes and perform African rhythms in small and large groups. They will be encouraged to improvise rhythms and compose their own African drumming piece.
Spring: Half term 1 Intervals	This unit will explore the relationship between notes & how notes can blend together to create harmony and tension in music.
Half term 2 Reggae	The Caribbean style of Reggae will be explored through a range of performance & listening activities. Using djembes, keyboards and ukuleles, students will learn to perform classic reggae tunes such as Bob Marley's 'Three Little Birds'.
Summer: Half term 1 Chords	Building on the work done on intervals, students will explore how notes are combined together into three note chords called triads. They will learn how to identify and perform major and minor triads using keyboards and ukuleles.
Half term 2 Dance Music	To finish off year 8, two contrasting styles of dance music will be studied. From performing the percussion based Samba music of Brazil, students will then use the departments music technology equipment to compose an EDM (electronic dance music) track.



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Year 9 Music

Autumn: Half term 1
Chord Sequences

Building on the work done in year 8, we will look at how triads are combined together into various chord sequences. Students will perform songs in small groups using different chord sequences.

Half term 2
The Blues

One of the most important chord sequences and the foundation of many styles of popular music, the 12 bar blues, will be explored through a range of listening, performing and composing activities.

Spring: Half term 1
Foley

The art of Foley, adding sounds to film in post-production, will be introduced. Students will learn the difference between diegetic and non-diegetic sound before composing their own Foley for a selection of short film clips.

Half term 2
Music for Media

Music is used in all sorts of different media from advertising to video games. Students will identify the wide ranging use of music in media before producing their own music for media project using video game & movie trailers.

Summer: Half term 1
Song Writing

Using their knowledge of chord sequences, students will explore song writing techniques. They will be encouraged to write the lyrics and compose an accompaniment for a song about a given topic.

Half term 2
Band Skills

As the final unit in year nine, this will see the end of formal music education for those not opting to take music in at key stage 4. Combining lots of the skills and techniques they have studied; students will have the opportunity to form a band and put together a performance of a song.



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