



MUSIC: Curriculum Overview

Year 8

Half Term	Topic studied	What will I learn?	How will I be assessed?
Year 8 Autumn 1	Brazilian Samba (4 week workshop)	How to play a range of samba instruments with control of tone and dynamics. Performing increasingly complex samba rhythms and maintaining a part in a large ensemble. The musical and cultural characteristics of Brazilian samba.	Whole class performance of a Samba piece which is learnt aurally and involves a range of rhythms, roles and a defined structure.
Year 8 Autumn 2	Improvising with the Blues	The origins of blues music and the historical and cultural links with African music. Developing keyboard skills to play chords and melody in 2 hands. Learning to improvise and develop stylistic awareness.	Paired keyboard performance/improvisation demonstrating chord playing and melodic improvisation
Year 8 Spring 1	Video Game Music	The role of music in video games (and films), including the different types of music and game genres. Techniques for composing in a particular mood. How to compose following a script or storyboard. Using music ICT to compose and sequence.	Paired or small group composition of a piece which follows a video game brief, developing motivic ideas, establishing an atmosphere and responding to gameplay action
Year 8 Spring 2	Minimalist Music	The significance and history of minimalist music and its impact on popular music today. Using minimalist composition techniques and devices. Performing minimalist music using a range of instruments.	Small group performance of a minimalist piece which they have composed in response to a given stimulus.
Year 8 Summer 1	Musical Futures	Learning to play popular music instruments (drum kit, guitar, bass guitar, keyboard). Reading tab notation. Developing ensemble and independent working skills to rehearse a song of their choice.	Group performance of at least one song which students have chosen and which involves singing, instrumental skills and ensemble interaction.
Year 8 Summer 2	Fusion Composition	Examples of fusions styles in music. How to combine musical features from contrasting musical genres. Developing more advanced composition skills using music ICT and sequencing.	Paired or group composition taking influence from at least 2 musical styles studied in Y7 and 8. Listening test to identify stylistic characteristics of different fusion pieces.

