

Music Curriculum Intent and Implementation



Music is considered vitally important to the development of the students' progress. The study of music is delivered through fun engaging lessons which involve all students being able to participate creatively in the listening, performing and composing of music. Through music students are encouraged to express themselves helping them develop emotionally and academically. Music has been proven to have a beneficial effect on the learning and progression in other subjects especially in the learning of a musical instrument, and this is actively encouraged in our school.

The music department is well resourced with a class set of keyboards, ukuleles, guitars, bass guitars, two drum kits, a recording studio and three practice rooms. We also have apple mac computers with Garage band and Cubase to record create and compose music with.

In year 7 students learn about Pitch, Dynamics, Duration, Tempo, Texture, Timbre or Sonority, Articulation and Silence and are introduced to Graphic Notation and Graphic Scores. This will help provide students with the vocabulary to describe music which will be developed for the Btec. They will also learn how to compose music using the elements to depict a scene using the various instruments that are available.

They are also introduced to reading notation in graphic and traditional forms in a differentiated way so that all can be included.

The first and most useful instrument taught will be the keyboard. This instrument provides an excellent spring board to learn other instruments and on a keyboard there is greater scope for expression as it comprises of a wide pitch range, and offers a variety of sounds.

Pupils are then taught how to use an online music software to help with music creation and the teaching of more modern styles of music such as pop, rock and electronic dance music.



A variety of genres are studied throughout key stage three which are then further embedded at Btec level. These include the study of Reggae within which students learn about the features of the music, its origins and famous/influential composers and artists.

Students also learn African Drumming which is a great way to practice rhythm and timing as well as learning about another culture. Rhythm creation is also key to this unit and understanding how the different polyrhythms fit together to create a more complex texture.

Minimalism is a form of music derived from an art movement and was the pre cursor to many other genres including electronic dance music and more experimental music. Students learn about the minimalistic features of short melodic motifs which are manipulated and shifted to create interesting and hypnotic effects. Pupils will create their own minimalist music and perform the famous Tubular Bells theme.

The blues is a hugely important style of music which of course developed into a myriad of different genres from its early beginnings to present day including rock music. Pupils learn the iconic twelve bar blues chord structure and the Blues scale. They then improvise melodies using the blues scale over the twelve bar blues structure.

Riffs and hooks are a building block of popular music. Students analyse riffs from various genres of popular music as well as learning a popular riff on keyboards which they then develop into a group performance. The piece will then be recorded on Garage band to be edited. Students will then work to compose their won riffs and perform them in groups.

Although the primary instrument used in music is keyboard, pupils are also given the opportunity to play and learn the Djembe African drum, Ukulele, guitar, bass guitar and drums.

As you can see, the music curriculum is wide and varied, teaching key music skills to the highest possible standard.

As well as the curriculum time there are a variety of clubs such as the school band and opportunities to perform music in the extravaganza towards Christmas and in the Oswestry music festival.

We offer one to one or group teaching of a musical instrument for a fee. We have a range of highly qualified professional peripatetic music teachers that specialise in a specific instrument. These instruments include piano, guitar, drums and violin. These lessons are taught on a weekly basis during the school day.

Music at key stage 4

Music BTEC helps students to develop subject knowledge, understanding and skills, through listening to a variety of music, performing music and composing their own music.

The aims of this course are to:

- Inspire and enthuse students to consider a career in the music industry, rather than to participate in music only recreationally



- Give students the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of, and develop skills in, the music industry, e.g. the live sound industry, solo or group professional performance, or music promotion and publishing
- Support progression to a more specialised level 3 vocational or academic music course or an apprenticeship
- Give learners the potential opportunity to enter employment within a wide range of junior job roles across the music industry, for example runner, roadie (backline technical support), stage crew, venue staff, music promotion, and retail and sales roles.