

# Curriculum Overview 2019-2020

## Music

### Intent:

All students study music at Key Stage 3, with an opportunity to progress as an option at Key Stage 4.

The Music Department aims to provide students with a wealth of musical experience across a number of different genres. We hope this will provide students with an appreciation of music, the skills to continue to study music if they wish and to provide cultural learning through practical music making.

### Implementation at Key Stage 3:

At Key Stage 3, students follow the MiSST Programme in Years 7 and 8. Students in Year 9 have the opportunity to continue to develop on their chosen instrument in addition to exploring other instrumental opportunities.

In addition to the MiSST Programme, students have the opportunity to explore music for Keyboard, Rocks Bands, Film Music, Minimalism, World Music and Music Technology.

Quality is at the heart of student performances and we actively encourage students to recognise and produce high quality work with attention to detail.

Student work is assessed throughout the topic, with key pieces of work being recorded and graded for assessment. These can include Performance, Composition or Listening and Appraising Tasks.

### Implementation at Key Stage 4:

The Music Department offers both Music GCSE (Edexcel Specification) and Level 2 Music Technology Technical Award (NCFE).

Students on the GCSE course are expected to be able to play an instrument to a reasonable standard (approximately grade 2 or 3). Students continue to develop this skill throughout the course with a performance portfolio submitted in Year 11. Additionally, students are required to learn appropriate musical theory to allow them to excel across all elements of the course. It is therefore expected that students will attend lessons which support and reinforce this learning and complete appropriate home learning. Students on the GCSE music course are provided with a compulsory instrumental lesson to enable this to take place. Students will be expected to compose two pieces of their own music, based on those

they have studied as part of their instrumental lessons and the Listening and Appraising work required for the exam.

Students on the Music Technology course are required to complete a number of practical tasks throughout the course. In order to achieve this, students will develop these skills throughout the course with each unit requiring more extensive use of the software and required skills.

As at Key Stage 3, students are encouraged to focus on what sounds 'good' before altering any work but Music Technology students are required to demonstrate an ability to evaluate their work through written assignments. Whilst theory is not an essential part of this qualification, some basic theory is taught to support the creation of original material.

#### Overview of Key Stage 4:

Students on the NCFE Technical Award in Music Technology are assessed over 4 Units and 2 exams. Students must pass both exams, taken in March of Year 11 in order to pass the course. The remainder of the assessed content will be completed over the two years and get progressively more complex as students' skills develop.

Unit 1: Using A Digital Audio Workstation (DAW)

Unit 2: Creating Music

Unit 3: Studio Recording

Unit 4: Sound Creation

Students on the Edexcel GCSE Music course are required to study 8 set pieces over 4 areas of Music for their final exam in Year 11.

In Year 10, students complete one free composition and work towards completion of their performance portfolio. In addition, students study the following set works throughout Year 10 and into Year 11:

Music 1700 – 1820:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Movement from Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 in D major – J. S. Bach.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Movement from Piano Sonata no. 8 in C minor 'Pathétique' – L. van Beethoven.

Vocal Music:

- Music for a While – H Purcell
- Killer Queen (from the album '*Sheer Heart Attack*') – Queen

Music for Stage and Screen:

- Defying Gravity (from the album of the cast recording of *Wicked*) – S. Schwartz

- Main title/Rebel Blockade Runner (from the soundtrack to Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope) - J. Williams.

Fusions:

- Release (from the album '*Volume 2: Release*') – Afro Celt Sound System.
- Samba Em Preludio (from the album '*Esperanza*') – Esperanza Spalding.

In Year 11, students continue to develop their performance portfolio and compose to a brief set by the exam board. Both the composition and performance portfolios are completed by the Easter holiday to allow students dedicated revision and exam practice time.