



## **Music**

The curriculum covers a range of styles and genres from different cultures and periods in history. Students focus on one style/genre of music every half term. These styles/genres are based on the areas of study found in the GCSE syllabus. Through studying a particular style /genre students will have the opportunity to develop the three key musical skills; listening, composing and performance. Students will learn how to identify particular elements belonging to a style/genre through taking part in various listening activities. They will then learn how to compose and perform music in a particular style/genre by taking part in practical workshops. Students will focus on performing on the instruments keyboard, guitar and drum kit as well as singing. Students will be assessed on the 3 key skills every half term using the new assessment criteria which has been adapted from the GCSE assessment requirements.

### **Year 7:**

In the first term of Year 7 we focus on some of the main elements belonging to music- rhythm, tempo, melody, timbre and texture. They explore these elements through studying Samba and Classical music. In the second term we study the musical elements harmony, timbre and tonality. We do this through the study of Classical Romantic music. In the third term we explore the use of various structures. We do this through revisiting classical music as well as exploring popular music.

### **Year 8:**

In the first term of Year 8 we focus on musical devices such as ground bass, riff and ostinato. We do this through studying Classical, Blues and popular music. In second term we look at how elements are used effectively to produce particular effects/moods/atmosphere through the study of film music. In the third term we explore the musical elements belonging to Reggae music.

### **Year 9:**

In the first term of Year 9 we focus on how musical elements are used to create a successful pop song through performance, composition and various listening activities. In the second term through performance, composition and listening activities, we explore how various musical elements are used effectively in songs from the musicals. In the third term we explore how elements are used effectively in various extracts of film music through taking part in composition, performance and listening activities.

### **Homework Requirements:**

Students will be given practical homework to do once every half term. Students will be expected to come to the department at break time to practise and improve their instrumental skills. We would like them to come at least once during the allocated week (they will have the opportunity practise at least 5 times). This is a valuable way of improving their instrumental skills whilst benefiting from extra teacher support. Staff sign the students planner as evidence that they had attended the homework session.

### **Extra-Curricular**

We are a very busy department with extra-curricular activities happening every day of the week:

- o Orchestra (all years - Monday and Tuesday lunchtime).
- o Choir (all years - Thursday and Friday lunchtime).
- o Rock Group (all years – Tuesday after school).

These extra-curricular activities lead to many events and performances throughout the year:

- o Musical Production (Music and Drama collaboration over 2 nights in the Autumn term).
- o Light up a Life (a service held at Hospice at Home Centre).
- o Christmas Concert (Music and Drama collaboration held in the local church).
- o Carlisle Music and Drama Festival (the choir, woodwind ensemble and various soloists are entered annually).
- o Primary Schools Summer Concert (a collaboration with 4 primary feeder schools).

**Instrumental/Singing Lessons:**

We employ seven specialist teachers who teach a range of instruments and vocal skills. Over 150 students receive these peripatetic lessons and many are entered for the music board exams. The lessons last for half an hour and are taught in pairs or on a one to one basis. The cost of these lessons is £90 per term.