



## Key Stage 3 Curriculum: 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 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 African 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 the second term we explore the musical elements belonging to world music. We do this through the study of Indian music and revisiting African music. In the third term we look at how elements are used effectively to produce particular effects/moods/atmosphere through the study of film music. In contrast to this we also study the style of minimalism music.

### Year 9:

In Year 9 we start focussing on the GCSE set works belonging to the Edexcel syllabus. In the first term we study African music and focus on the set work 'Yiri' by Koko. We then go on to study dance music and focus on the set work 'Why Does My Heart Feel So Bad?' by Moby. In the second term we study musicals and focus on the set work 'Something's Coming' by Bernstein. We then move on to classical music, focussing on Handel's chorus 'And the Glory of the Lord'. In the third term we revisit Indian music, focusing on the set work 'Rag Desh' by A Shanker. We end Year 9 by focusing on popular music and in particular the set work 'Grace' by J Buckley.

### Homework Requirements:

Students will be given practical homework to do once every 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:

- Orchestra (all years - Monday and Friday lunchtime).
- Choir (all years - Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime).
- Rock Group (all years - Wednesday lunchtime).

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

- Musical Production (Music and Drama collaboration over 3 nights in the Autumn term).
- Rock The Church (a music concert in the local church in collaboration with other local schools).
- Christmas Concert (Music and Drama collaboration held in the local church).
- Carlisle Music Festival (the choir, woodwind ensemble and various soloists were entered last year).
- Primary Schools Summer Concert (a collaboration with 4 primary feeder schools).

### Instrumental/Singing Lessons:

We employ eight specialist teachers who teach a range of instruments and vocal skills. Over 100 students receive these peripatetic lessons and many are entered for the music board exams. The lessons last for half an hour and are taught on a one to one basis. The cost of these lessons is £70 per term.