

Music Year 9 GCSE Pathway

Michaelmas 1	Jazz Developing work from the Blues/Rock 'n' Roll units in year 8 pupils will work with the pentatonic scale and various modes within a study of jazz music. Stimulus material will include "cool jazz" (<i>Ship Without A Rudder</i>). Listening will include Miles Davis, and other icons from jazz. Theory will include chords, semitones, intervals, basic rhythm notation. Pupils will be introduced to sequencer software. Pupils will focus on melody-learning, structure and improvisation. Assessment Can pupils improvise/compose using a given scale and structure? Can pupils perform melodies on keyboards/xylophones/other instruments?
Michaelmas 2	Britpop Building on the Rock 'n' Roll project from year 8 pupils will perform an extended song (exploiting verse-chorus-middle), and perform more difficult chords. Pupils will listen to a variety of 90s Britpop and (looking back at earlier rock music) they will study the impact of the development of the electric guitar. Pupils will develop knowledge of scales, chords, and song structure. Pupils will use software to complete composition tasks, such as developing a song structure of their own. Assessment Pupils will work in small groups to develop performances of "<i>Wonderwall</i>" (Oasis).
Lent 1	Music and modes Pupils will further develop improvisation skills in this unit. Pupils will study Russian 20th century Classical music (Prokofiev). They will also study music which samples this piece considering its political/social/historical context. This will link to the Britpop project as pupils will also develop understanding of modes through pop and rock music. Assessment In small groups pupils will develop their own arrangements of Prokofiev's <i>Romance</i> from <i>Lieutenant Kije</i>. They will be assessed on their ability to improvise and contribute to a group performance and their ability to compose with a pop song structure and specific mode.
Lent 2	Minimalism Pupils will focus on texture in music e.g. layering with a study of 20th century minimalist techniques. They will perform minimalist music by Einaudi, Michael Nyman and Steve Reich. Pupils will listen to a variety of minimalist pieces exploring and understanding development techniques. Where time allows pupils will look at similar techniques used in Electronic Dance Music. Assessment Listening exercises - can pupils hear Minimalist techniques? Composition- can pupils develop music using minimalist techniques?

Trinity 1	Music for Stage and Screen Pupils will develop understanding of various ensembles within Music Theatre and Film Music. Pupils will gain a deeper understanding of leitmotifs, development, expressive modes, melody, intervals, chromatic chords, and different scales. Pupils will be set various composition studies e.g. leitmotifs (themes which represent characters).
Trinity 2	Transition to year 10 Pupils will select one of the genres of music we have looked at across the year and perform a related piece (solo or ensemble), and compose a full piece using either sequencing software or notation software related to the genre. Assessment In addition to the assessed practical work pupils will also complete an end of year examination which tests listening and theory skills which have been covered across the year.