

Music - Year 8



	Units Students study four units over the course of the year. Students continue to develop the five key strands of the Music Curriculum in the topics they study; performing, singing, composing, improvising and critical engagement (focusing on listening skills and what it means to be an audience).	Assessments Assessments are undertaken each topic (four times a year) and have both a practical and listening/appraisal element, designed to assess their performance or composition work alongside their ability to use appropriate terminology to write about music. Formative assessment is ongoing and evidence is gathered throughout each topic in a variety of ways. These include audio/video recordings, written tests, notated compositions, written/spoken evaluations and musical performances. Marks are recorded on Go4Schools four times a year, at the end of each topic.
Autumn/Spring	Blues Music Students will explore the genre of blues music including the 12-bar blues chord pattern, walking bass line, improvisation and the blues scale. They will look at how this early Blues developed from African slave songs and into Rock 'n' Roll and recognise common features of its style.	End of topic performance including improvisation and listening assessment.
	Musicals Introduction to the world of Musical Theatre, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocal performance skills specific to this genre • Exploring singing styles • Solo, Ensemble and Cast songs • Focus on the three performing arts skills involved in performing in a musical - dance, singing and acting • Composing a waltz for a musical. Students will develop their vocal and instrumental skills through a performance of a song from a musical, whilst also developing their ability to compose, using Sibelius, in the style of a Waltz. 	Waltz Composition and listening assessment.
Spring	Instruments of the Orchestra Students explore the world of the "Orchestra", looking at the instruments within the four orchestral families. They will explore the different timbres of these instruments and perform a piece as a "keyboard orchestra", developing their notation-reading and keyboard performance skills.	Listening assessment.
Summer	Reggae Music Students develop their performance skills and understanding of Reggae Music by exploring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the music of Bob Marley, • the typical instrumentation of Reggae, • typical musical features, • syncopation and offbeat, • context of this style. 	End of unit performance and listening assessment.