

Music - Year 9



	Units In Year 9 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. The curriculum in Year 9 is designed to prepare students for GCSE Music, with the greater emphasis on independent learning, solo projects, developing ensemble skills and developing deeper listening skills.	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	Film and Video Game Music A study of the ways in which music is used in Film and Video Game Music (link to GCSE syllabus), including a focus on 'leitmotifs' and the development of a motif to create a memorable melody to suit a character within a film or video game. Students will compose their own underscore for a horror scene and leitmotifs for a video game character using Garageband.	Film/Video Game composition and Listening Assessment.
	Band Skills Following the popular 'Musical Futures' approach, students work as a whole class to prepare, rehearse and record a popular song, with a focus on the role of each instrument within a pop/rock band. They then take on the challenge of working in groups to prepare a cover version performance of a song of their choice.	End of unit performance and Listening Assessment.
Spring	Rhythms of the World Students learn about four different styles of World Music (taken from the GCSE syllabus) and the characteristic rhythms that underpin these styles: West African Djembe Drumming, Samba Drumming, Steel Pan Calypso and Bhangra. Students learn about these styles through practical workshops, listening activities and group work.	Listening assessment.
Summer	Popular Music – Song Writing Students learn how to compose a successful pop song, exploring the roles of each band instrument, major/minor chords, features of a pop song, setting lyrics to music and learning how to perform as an ensemble.	Popular song composition.