

| Subject: Music (2 x fortnightly) | | Year Group 8 Culture & creativity (Composing, performing & listening within a context) | | |
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| Term and Unit | Knowledge Key concepts students learn | Skills developed / key questions for this unit | How this builds on prior learning | How this prepares for future learning |
| Autumn 1 and 2 Patterns in music | Understanding 'ostinato' and 'riffs' through popular pieces. Exploring the importance of structure. Being introduced to different types of structure such as Ternary form and how to compose within a given ABA structure. | Performing skills Keyboard skills Listening and appraising skills Composing skills Music Technology through listening | Building on composition skills from the brief introduction in the Year 7 Samba music topic. Also keyboard skills from the Year 7 Beatles topic. | Structuring of compositional ideas helps to prepare students for the following film music topic and future composition units at GCSE. |
| Autumn 2/Spring 1 Film music | Learning how to play leitmotif's from different films. Understanding how to compose for a given storyboard using a range of music elements. Key terminology is introduced such as chromatic, dissonant, crescendo, accelerando etc. | Performing skills Listening and appraising skills Composing skills Keyboard skills Use of technology e.g. synthesizers | Builds on the instruments topic in year 7, patterns and classical remix topics in year 8. | Film music is part of AOS 2 in GCSE music and the terminology covered is part of the GCSE course. Prepares students for composing units at GCSE level. |
| Spring 1/Spring 2 World Music | Understanding different cultures through exploring Latin Caribbean styles such as Calypso and African Djembe Drumming. Musical features introduced such as polyrhythms, syncopation, call and response, flam, roll. Rhythmic composition skills will be developed on unpitched percussion. Learning how to play the Xylophone and Djembe drum. | Xylophone skills African Djembe skills Samba Drumming skills Listening and appraising Ensemble and Leadership skills Problem solving Composing and performing skills | Contextual understanding from blues topic in unit 2 applied when exploring historical elements. Further building on samba and rhythmic composition skills from Year 7. Adding in more complex concepts such as poly-rhythms and syncopation. | Leads into class ensemble music making skills explored in Year 9. AOS3 at GCSE level includes knowledge about traditional music from Latin America and the Caribbean. The set GCSE study piece on Paul Simon requires knowledge of African music. |
| Spring 2/Summer1 The Blues | Understanding a wide variety of subject specific terms e.g. pentatonic, 12 bar blues, walking bass, fill, riff, blues scale, scat singing etc. Introduction to improvisation. Contextual understanding of the history surrounding blues. Use of keyboards and or xylophones/Ukuleles. | Improvisation skills Performance skills Listening skills Group work skills through putting together a three part blues piece. Self-evaluation & peer assessment | Further reading of music notation Building on understanding of major and minor chords from Year 7 and melody lines from The Beatles topic. Continuing to build keyboard skills. | Development towards AOS 3 at GCSE – traditional music including the blues. Helps students to understand how to compose a blues piece at GCSE level. |
| Summer 2 Investigating the art of Song writing | Exploring the main core ingredients that make up a popular song on both keyboards and ukulele's (as well as any other instruments that students play). Four chord songs, hooks and riffs and lyric writing are all explored through pieces such as Watermelon Sugar, Uptown Funk, Shape of You. | Class ensemble skills Composing skills Performing skills Keyboard and Ukulele skills Listening and appraising skills. | Students build on their knowledge of repeating patterns from unit 1 as well as their Ukulele skills from year 7 and Year 8 keyboard skills. Composing skills are refined to fit notes to chord sequences. | Development towards composing skills required at GCSE standard and these ingredients are used within units of the Vcert Music Technology course that some students may take. |