



Year 7

Rhythm: Call & Response & Basic Note Values (3 – 4 lessons)

Pupils will learn about and explore one of the most basic musical elements; rhythm. In doing this they will also be learning about and utilising three basic note values, as well as a variety of musical performance tools such as imitation, call and response, unison, and solo. The project serves as an introduction to group work in music and developing good practice working in teams, as well as a very basic introduction to note values in preparation for 'Reading Music' later in the year.

Graphic Scores: Pitch, Dynamics and Expression (3 – 4 lessons)

The purpose of this topic is to introduce pupils to a very basic way of reading and interpreting music using graphic notation. They will explore the works of other graphic score musicians and have an opportunity to create their own graphic scores whilst thinking about imaginative ways to convey pitch and dynamics. The performance aspect at the end of the topic allows the pupils a chance to be confident and expressive in front of their peers which is a vital skill for music at key stage 3.

Reading Music (3 – 4 lessons)

In this topic pupils will learn the notes of the treble staff and will practice reading them using keyboards. They will begin learning a simple nursery rhyme by using the knowledge gathered in the first topic, and then move on to a more advanced tune from a chart song which they may be familiar with. The extension of this topic involves the addition of sharps and flats where pupils can choose a part from Ed Sheeran's 'Shape of You' to try and work out using musical notation with sharp and flat symbols.

The Blues: Chord progressions and scales (6 – 8 lessons)

In this final topic pupils will learn about chords and some basic scales through the medium of Blues Music. They will learn about the history and origins of Blues Music and practice some genuine songs from the genre, as well as having a go at creating their own 12-bar chord progressions and blues-based lyrics. Through looking at this topic they will gain basic knowledge and skills in the more advanced realms of chords and scales.



Year 8

Songwriting (3 – 4 Lessons)

Students will begin Year 8 by learning about the key sections of popular songs using relevant and familiar music, along with the function of each section. Using a set of chords, a simple melody, and a bassline, pupils will then compose their own songs using devices such as melisma, syllabic writing, and rhyming and eventually perform them to the class. They can choose to compose a verse, chorus, or both.

Music in Advertising (4 – 5 lessons)

Music is used for a variety of commercial purposes and in this unit students will discover how to use music and sound in order to affect emotional responses. In groups, students create a persuasive 30 second television advert for a luxury product of their choice which includes composing their own soundtrack and adding in their own recorded commentary to a pre-existing silent clip.

Music in Film (4 – 5 lessons)

Building upon student understanding of how music and sound can be used to illicit emotional responses. Students will study a variety of music used in film scenes in order to create mood and atmosphere alongside the visual image. They will engage in the appraising of music used in film scenes with reference to the use of the musical elements and the emotional effects created. They will then work in groups to compose their own piece of music for a pre-existing clip with the absence of the original soundtrack.

The Music Industry (5 – 6 lessons)

To prepare any prospective pupils who may wish to take up music in year 9, this final topic will revolve around learning about and experiencing at a basic level some of the job roles present in the music industry. Pupils will gain some experience in creating music products, recording live sound and producing promotional materials for hypothetical music events.