



Department of Music

Year 8

Overview

Year 8 Music focuses on the practical application of Music through listening, performance and composition activities. Students will learn about various music from different cultures, including Indian Classical Music, African Drumming and traditional British Folk Music. These will recap the skills learnt in Year 7, including musical elements and notation. They will also learn about the origins of Blues and its development to Rock n Roll and finally will perform in bands and as a class, singing pop songs. The topics chosen cover a variety of genres therefore providing the students with a broad and balanced understanding of the musical canon.

Skills Developed

In Year 8 music we encourage students to develop their understanding of musical style and socio-historical context through practical application. There is particular emphasis on the following:

- Solo and ensemble performance (vocal and instrumental).
- Aural/ listening skills.
- Creating and developing melodic ideas.
- Working with modern compositional devices.
- Developing an appropriate musical vocabulary, focussing particularly on articulating coherent musical opinions.

Topics covered

African Drumming	Students consider the importance of music in West African societies through singing and African drumming. They will perform two traditional, authentic African drumming works.
Blues & Rock n Roll	An introduction to the origins of the Blues and its features as a social commentary. Students will produce a group performance of a song using the 12-bar blues structure.
Music of India	Students will explore Indian Classical music. They will compose and perform a short piece inspired by this tradition focussing on the tala and the rag.
British Folk Music	Students will learn about the social and historical context of British Folk Music and arrange a performance of the Dargason melody.
Popular music	Students will perform a cover of a chosen popular song, whether that be in the style of reggae, pop or rap. Students will learn how to compose their own pop song using music software.

How we assess your daughter's progress

Students will undertake a listening test and practical assessment for each topic studied.

The listening test will require students to recall information about the context of the genre of music being studied, as well as aurally analyse according to the seven key musical elements. It will also test students' understanding of relevant key musical terminology too.

The practical assessment will require students to perform an arrangement of a set piece of music, or their individual compositions. This will usually involve the students performing in front of their peers, in group settings. This task requires all students to have a basic knowledge of the theory of music, specifically reading notation of the treble and bass clefs.

At the end of each topic, a colour band will be allocated, based on the average of both of these assessments.

How we support and develop your daughter

Pupils will be asked to keep work for each of the topics detailed above in a music folder. They will work through worksheets and performances in class. Pupils should be encouraged to listen to a variety of styles of music and to consider their context and purpose. Pupils are also urged to listen to the 'set works' studied in class in their own time too.

Support material will also be available on Frog via www.nonsuch.sutton.sch.uk.

Other useful resources:

<https://www.musictheory.net/>

<https://www.earmaster.com/music-theory-online/course-introduction.html>

<https://www.teoria.com/>

Students can also apply for private Music Theory tuition with our peripatetic instrumental teachers.

How you can help your daughter

Parents/guardians could ensure that their daughter allocates time to practise for her performance assessments.

Regular testing of staff notation, particularly notes of the treble clef.

Regular recall of the seven musical elements and their corresponding terminology will also help to improve students' listening analysis skills too. This could be done by checking through the glossaries for each topic.