



Music: Curriculum Overview

Year 7

Half Term	Topic studied	What will I learn?	How will I be assessed?
Year 7 Autumn 1	Let's Get Playing	A fantastic bridging unit aimed to get students performing quickly. Students develop their musical skills through solo, paired, small group, and whole-class activities. They focus on singing, keyboard, and ukulele, building confidence, coordination, and ensemble awareness. Through rehearsals and performances, students refine their technique, timing, and expression while working collaboratively to create engaging musical performances.	A performance assessment on the keyboard of Shotgun
Year 7 Autumn 2	Musical Colours (Chords)	In this topic on chords, students explore the use of major and minor chords to create harmony in music. They learn about primary and secondary chords, how they are constructed, and how they are used in different musical contexts. Through listening, analysis, and practical activities, students develop their ability to recognise and play chords, applying them in their own performances and compositions	A listening assessment based on musical elements A composition using major and minor chords
Year 7 Spring 1	Descriptive Music	A fantastic bridging unit aimed to get students performing quickly. Students develop their musical skills through solo, paired, small group, and whole-class activities. They focus on singing, keyboard, and ukulele, building confidence, coordination, and ensemble awareness. Through rehearsals and performances, students refine their technique, timing, and expression while working collaboratively to create engaging musical performances.	A composition about spaced influenced by Holst and other romantic composers. A listening assessment on a piece of descriptive music
Year 7 Spring 2	Music and Dance	Students explore how music is composed to accompany movement, focusing on the waltz and disco. They study the elegant three-beat patterns of the waltz, analysing works by composers such as Johann Strauss II, and compare them to the driving four-beat rhythms of disco, including influences from artists like Gloria Gaynor. Students also learn about the contributions of female composers such as Emilie Mayer, who wrote waltzes in the Romantic era. Through listening, performance, and composition activities, they develop an understanding of how rhythm, tempo, and harmony create music that inspires dance.	A disco performance assessment in groups

Year 7 Summer 1	Bhangra	In this topic on Bhangra, students explore the vibrant fusion of traditional Punjabi folk music and modern Western influences. They learn about the key musical features of Bhangra, including its energetic rhythms, syncopated dhol drum patterns, catchy melodies, and use of technology such as sampling and remixing. Through listening and analysis, students identify these elements in classic and contemporary Bhangra tracks. They also develop their performance skills by playing Bhangra rhythms on percussion instruments and singing or playing melodic 4 lines similar to that of a Tumbi. Finally, students apply their knowledge in composition tasks, creating their own Bhangra-inspired pieces using traditional and modern techniques.	A group composition task A listening activity based on a piece of Bhangra music and looking at the context of the music.
Year 7 Summer 2	Samba	In this Samba topic, students explore the energetic rhythms of Brazilian carnival music through whole-class percussion ensembles. They develop performance skills, learning to play interlocking rhythms with accuracy and control. Students create their own rhythms, improvise within a structure, and learn how Samba music uses call and response, texture, and dynamics. They listen to traditional Samba pieces, identifying key instruments and features, and learn about its cultural origins and social purpose. This unit supports the national curriculum by developing students' ability to perform, compose, listen critically, and understand music from diverse traditions and historical contexts.	A group performance of a Samba piece.