



Topic Name	Term	Skills Developed	Link to NC Subject Content	Prior learning	Next link in curriculum
<u>Y8.1 African Music</u> Explore the rich musical traditions of West Africa through practical djembe performance, ensemble playing and composition. Students develop an understanding of polyrhythm, call and response, improvisation and the cultural significance of music within African communities.	AUTUMN	Technical: Perform cyclic rhythms, syncopation, call and response patterns and djembe techniques (bass, tone, slap). Develop ensemble performance skills. Constructive: Understand polyrhythm, ostinato, improvisation and African musical structures. Compose and arrange using authentic rhythmic devices Expressive: Explore music as a cultural tradition and community practice. Appreciate musical diversity and understand how musical traditions influence one another globally.	Improvise and compose music for a range of purposes; perform in ensemble contexts; understand music from diverse cultures and traditions.	Elements of Music especially Rhythm & Metre, Orchestra, and understanding of both traditional and graphic rhythmic notation.	Jazz and Blues, Year 9 Minimalism. Progression from simple rhythmic composition to layered polyrhythmic composition.
<u>Y8.2 Scales, Tonic Triads and Intervals</u> Develop a secure understanding of the theory that underpins Western music. Students learn to construct and perform major scales, identify key signatures, intervals and tonic triads, applying this knowledge to keyboard performance, composition and musical analysis.	AUTUMN	Technical: Read and write notation fluently; perform scales and arpeggios accurately on keyboard; identify intervals aurally and visually Constructive: Understand major scales, key signatures, tonic triads, chords I-IV-V, circle of fifths and harmonic relationships. Apply theory to composition and accompaniment. Expressive: Use theoretical knowledge to create more sophisticated musical ideas and informed musical interpretations.	Use and understand staff notation; develop increasing accuracy, fluency and control in performance and composition.	Year 7 Staff Notation, Keyboard Unit and Rhythm & Metre. Knowledge of tones, semitones and accidentals.	Minor Scales, advanced harmony and GCSE Music theory concepts.



<u>Y8.3 Music History: Baroque, Classical and Romantic Music</u> Discover how Western Classical Music developed through the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods. Students explore the musical characteristics, composers, forms and historical context of each era whilst developing listening, analytical and performance skills.	SPRING	Technical: Develop listening and appraising skills; perform stylistic repertoire such as Für Elise. Constructive: Identify features of Baroque, Classical and Romantic music including texture, form, tonality, orchestration and development of instruments. Understand binary, ternary and rondo forms. Expressive: Explore how composers responded to social, cultural and technological change. Compare musical styles across historical periods and evaluate their impact on modern music.	Listen with increasing discrimination to a wide range of music; understand how music is created, produced and communicated across time and place.	Year 7 Orchestra Unit, Elements of Music and Music Theory.	African Music. Foundation for Year 9 Minimalism and GCSE Areas of Study.
<u>Y8.4 Jazz and Blues</u> Explore the origins and development of Blues and Jazz through listening, performance, improvisation and composition. Students investigate the musical features of these influential genres, including the 12-bar blues, swing rhythms, blues scales and ensemble performance.	SPRING	Technical: Perform swing rhythms, walking bass lines and blues melodies; develop keyboard fluency; improvise using the blues scale. Constructive: Understand the 12-bar blues structure, primary chords (I, IV, V), seventh chords, riffs, ostinati and improvisation. Analyse how jazz musicians organise and develop musical ideas. Expressive: Explore the cultural origins of Blues and Jazz and their significance in American history. Develop personal creativity through improvisation and ensemble performance.	Play and perform confidently in ensemble contexts; improvise and compose music; listen with increasing discrimination and understanding; understand music from different traditions and historical contexts.	Year 7 Elements of Music, Rhythm & Metre, Keyboard Skills, Staff Notation and Orchestra. Understanding of DR T SMITH and basic harmony.	Music History. Progression from simple composition in Year 7 to stylistic composition and improvisation.



<u>Y8.5 Music Examination</u> Consolidate and apply the knowledge, understanding and practical skills developed throughout Year 8. Students demonstrate their listening, theory, performance and analytical skills through practical and written assessments, preparing them for the more advanced study of music in Year 9.	SUMMER	Technical: Demonstrate secure notation, performance and listening skills. Constructive: Apply understanding of harmony, scales, intervals, musical forms and stylistic conventions. Expressive: Evaluate musical works and communicate musical understanding using accurate vocabulary and contextual knowledge.	Consolidation of all Year 8 Curriculum content	All Year 8 units plus Year 7 Theory.	Progression to Year 9: Minimalism, Film Music and more advanced composition and analysis.
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