

# Year 8 Curriculum Road Map

## Unit 1 Blues

01

Students will be studying the musical, cultural and historical aspects of Blues music, through the studying of a number of different pieces, and the different components of a blues song. There will be a focus on the 12 bar blues structure, along with 7<sup>th</sup> chords, the blues scale, and improvisation. There will be an emphasis on group work and timing in this unit, and the ability to count through bars whilst playing will also be very important. The students will focus mainly on the 12 bar chord structure, the chords themselves, baselines, the blues scale for both melody and improvisational purposes, and will compose a 12 bar blues song in their groups.

## Unit 2 Musical Mashups

02

Students will be furthering their study of following musical notation, chord sheets and developing their ensemble skills. The focus will be on using and following music sheets in order to play different songs. This is an important skill for a musician and should be presented to the students as such. The songs that they will be learning will be differentiated and increasing in difficulty. Students will then choose 2-4 songs and in groups create a mashup. Students will be allowed to complete the mashup project on keyboards, ukulele, guitar, drums or vocalists. There will be an emphasis on rehearsal skills and feedback as they develop their mashups.

## Unit 3 Baroque

03

Students will be furthering their knowledge of Western Classical Music by completing individual and ensemble activities built around the Baroque Period. Students will understand key elements and characteristics of the Baroque era such as canon, ground bass, sequence, major, minor and terraced dynamics etc. They will understand some of the historical and social context from this era. Students will then apply their understanding to a performance and composition task in groups using keyboards, guitars, ukuleles, drums and vocals.

## Unit 4 Reggae

04

Students will be studying the musical, cultural, and historical aspects of Reggae music, through activities based around 'Three Little Birds' by Bob Marley. The students will be recapping major and minor chords, and will need to display that they know how to work these chords out. There will be an emphasis on group work and timing in this unit, and the ability to perform syncopated rhythms will be important. The students will learn different instrumental parts and perform the piece throughout the unit for formative assessment, and once at the end for summative assessment.

## Unit 5 British Music

05

Students will be studying British music, with a focus on the 1960's, with The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. Students should understand and be able to articulate key musical features of the style, as well as put it into context with regard to the development of music from the 50s, and throughout the 60s. Students will choose a Beatles song to learn or a Rolling Stone song as directed by the teacher), and will develop their chord sheet reading, notation reading, instrumental skill and group working skills. The aim is for all students to play a part in a group performance of their chosen piece of music.

## Unit 6 Rap & Hip-Hop

06

Students will understand the history and social context behind the origins of Rap & Hip-Hop Music. The students will understand key musical characteristics of this genre such as beat, drop, loop, riff, lyrics etc. The students will apply their understanding to a composition and performance task, where they will work in groups to compose and perform their own rap. Students will develop their listening and ensemble skills to play and rap in time to the beat, as well as improving their vocabulary and literacy as they understand lyric structures and rhyming schemes.

