

Year 9 Curriculum Road Map

Unit 1
Rock n Roll

01

Students will be studying the musical, historical and social context behind the genre Rock n Roll. They will build on their knowledge of Blues (from Year 8) to understand how Rock n Roll evolved Music, whilst still keeping features such as the Walking Bass, 12 Bar Blues Chord Sequence and Improvisation. Students will complete a performance project on the song 'Hound Dog' by Elvis Presley, first learning individually and then working in groups using various instruments and notations. There will be a focus on instrumental skills, rehearsal skills, and ensemble skills.

Unit 2
Rap and Hip-Hop

02

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.

Unit 3
Film Music

03

Students will be studying and understanding the elements of Film Music through performance and composition tasks. Students will explore traditional notation reading understanding pitch direction and working in pairs to perform music from different films. This will require students to collaborate in pairs, but also develop their independent working skills. Students will then use their understanding to develop a short composition which will fit alongside a selected clip. There will be an emphasis on vocabulary, compositional devices, music analysis, and technique.

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
Songwriting

05

Students will be writing their own song, using the skills and theory that they have learned throughout KS3. Students will aim to compose chords, melody, lyrics, and riffs/hooks. Students will be guided through which chords work and which don't work so well, and will put these into an order that they choose. Students will be expected to produce some sort of notation that they can use to work from. At the end of the unit students will perform their completed song, demonstrating the skills and knowledge they have acquired.

Unit 6
Live Lounge

06

Students will study and understand different instrumental ensembles and the preparation required for a successful live performance. Students will prepare an individual or group performance which can be a pre-existing piece or a composition. Students will use their knowledge and skills from KS3 to rehearse effectively, feedback each week, demonstrate their understanding of notation/chord sheets and instrumental abilities. All performances will be showcased during the last week of the unit.

