

Curriculum overview:

This course is constructed in order to continue development made in the year 7 course. The subject of music provides an excellent framework for embedding learning and thinking skills. Students will develop skills as: Independent enquirers; Creative thinkers; Reflective learners; Team workers; Self managers and Effective participators.

Composition and performance are the two main focuses of Year 8 music. Students will be encouraged to develop individual composition portfolios and make their own arrangements of existing pieces over a series of lessons. The topics covered involve exploring the role of various social contexts and the impact that society has on the development of music.

Unit 1 – Blues Music

Unit 2 – Popular Music

Unit 3 – Form, Notation & Structure

Homework & assessments overview:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Aural/Musical Concepts Tests	Homework project assignment(s)	Theme & Variations assignments
Blues performance assessment	Popular Music performance assessment	End of year performance assessment
<i>My Slave Experience</i> <i>Blues Lyrics</i>	<i>Pop Music Poster</i> <i>Pop Song Structures</i>	End of year test - analysing music

Useful websites:

www.everyhit.com

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebite-size/music - check Popular Music and Blues

www.allaboutbluesmusic.com

<http://freemusicarchive.org/genre/Blues/>

www.billboard.com/charts/hot-100

<http://www.themeandvariations.org>

Practical tips / activities for parents to support learning at home:

- Encourage the wider listening of a broad range of musical styles and genres
- Checking and ensuring that all homework tasks set are completed and submitted on time
- Engaging in conversations about students' musical learning and checking their understanding
- For students with instrument lessons outside of class, providing space and time for them to practice
- Reminders and support in bringing the right equipment and/or instruments to lessons including student workbooks