

# Key Stage 3 Curriculum Overview

# Music

**2022-23**



King's College  
*The British School of Murcia*

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## Year 7 and 8

**All Music topics for years 7 and 8 include the assessed elements of appraising (listening and responding), performing and composing. Years 7 and 8 are a 2-year rolling programme, taking pupils through each topic and gradually growing in complexity and challenge before moving on to the year-9 curriculum. All three assessed elements (appraising, performing and composing) are continually reinforced during each topic.**

### Term 1

#### **An Introduction to Solmization and Moveable Doh**

Pupils use their voices and bodies to explore rhythm notation, the tonic sol-fa system of pitch notation, and the pentatonic scale. Pupils use this knowledge to explore melody in music and to compose their own melodies.

#### **Christmas Music**

Pupils learn to sing and play popular Christmas songs and pieces. Using these as stimuli, pupils compose their own melodies with accompanying lyrics (original lyrics or an existing text) and learn how to structure a simple Christmas song.

### Term 2

#### **Music Technology**

Pupils use an online DAW (digital audio workstation) to create their own free compositions. Pupils learn to navigate a basic DAW and are encouraged to use their knowledge of rhythm and pitch to create coherent pieces of music. Structure and form are emphasised and pupils learn how to guide their own compositional process by keeping a composition journal. Pupils are encouraged to augment



their digital compositions with acoustic instruments, in collaboration with their peers.

## **Term 3**

### **Traditional Music and Popular Music**

Pupils learn about traditional music from cultures around the world, and the history of popular music in the 20th and 21st centuries. By listening to and analysing songs by great songwriters, pupils gain an insight into the differences between different styles of popular music and they have developed since the 1950s. In doing so, pupils further deepen their understanding of good composition and of the basic elements of music such as melody, rhythm, harmony, texture, tonality and timbre.

### **Assessment Information**

All aspects of the curriculum for years 7 and 8 will be assessed through coursework. The practical elements of performance and composition demonstrate the growing knowledge and understanding of all the musical elements studied.

### **Resources to support or extend learning**

Bandlab (online DAW)



## Year 9

**In Year 9, pupils examine different areas of music in more detail to give them a taste of the GCSE course. All topics will include the main assessed elements of appraising (listening and responding), performing and composing.**

### Term 1

#### Songwriting

Pupils learn about melody writing, pop harmony, word setting, and song structure. Pupils use this knowledge to compose a simple pop song (using their own lyrics or a chosen text) or a pop instrumental piece in the style of a pop song. Pupils perform their songs with and for their peers.

### Term 2

#### Music for Stage and Screen

Pupils learn about the history of film music and music theatre. Pupils listen to and analyse pieces of film music, considering the compositional devices employed by film composers. Pupils use this knowledge to compose their own pieces of film music to a given brief.

### Term 3

#### Western Art Music (including some set works from GCSE)

Pupils study the history of western art music and analyse pieces by great composers, including set works from GCSE. Pupils sample an own-choice piece of classical music which serves as the basis for their own composition using a DAW (digital audio workstation).



## Assessment Information

The majority of the curriculum for Years 9 will be assessed through coursework. The practical elements of performance and composition will demonstrate the growing knowledge and understanding of all the musical elements that we will be studying. When appropriate, there will be topic tests to assess and consolidate the listening/appraisal aspect of the subject.

## Resources to support or extend learning

Bandlab (online DAW)