

Developing Musical fluency: Rhythm, Harmony and Technology

Module/Unit of Learning	Taught During	What will students learn?	How does this help to build a broad and strong foundation?	Links to other Subjects
Rhythms and Chords Across the World	September – December	<p>Students build on their Year 7 knowledge of rhythm, chords and notation.</p> <p>They explore more complex musical concepts such as off-beat patterns, syncopation, sustained chord progressions and chord diagrams. They develop confidence performing rhythmic patterns from a range of musical traditions and deepen their understanding of how rhythm and harmony shape expressive musical outcomes.</p> <p>They also strengthen their ensemble rehearsal habits, focusing on accuracy, timing and musical balance across a group performance.</p>	<p>This unit develops rhythmic fluency and harmonic awareness, giving students the tools to perform and understand more complex musical patterns.</p> <p>It prepares them for later work with polyrhythms, layered textures and more advanced chord progressions.</p>	<p>Geography – exploring rhythms and styles from global musical cultures</p> <p>Maths – subdivision, grouping and pattern recognition in rhythm</p>
Rocking with Chord Progressions	January – March	<p>Students refine their rhythmic skills further through ensemble performance of polyrhythms. They develop their understanding of chord progressions and how harmony supports melody and groove in popular music.</p> <p>They also begin using music technology, learning to input rhythmic and melodic ideas into a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) using the piano roll. This introduces digital composition, sequencing and early production techniques.</p>	<p>This unit strengthens ensemble musicianship and introduces foundational music-technology skills.</p> <p>It prepares students for more independent digital composition in Year 9 by developing accuracy, coordination and confidence using a DAW.</p>	<p>Computing – sequencing, editing and basic DAW navigation</p> <p>Maths – layering rhythmic patterns and understanding beat groupings</p>
Rock 'n' Roll	April – July	<p>Students recap, refine and extend their musical understanding through listening, singing, performing and composing in a Rock 'n' Roll style. They build fluency, accuracy and expressive control while working with riffs, chord patterns and stylistic conventions.</p> <p>They further develop their music-technology skills, using DAW software to record and arrange short pieces. This prepares them for more sophisticated digital composition and multi-layered projects in Year 9.</p>	<p>This unit strengthens stylistic awareness and develops confidence in both live performance and digital composition.</p> <p>It prepares students for future genre-based study and more advanced use of technology by building fluency, independence and creative decision-making.</p>	<p>Computing – DAW recording, arranging and editing processes</p> <p>English – exploring lyrics, messaging and audience impact</p>