

Curriculum Summary Document

Year 9 – Music

Preparing for KS4: Genre, Composition and Musical Analysis

Module/Unit of Learning	Taught During	What will students learn?	How does this prepare students for transition into Key Stage 4?	Links to other Subjects
Popular Music in Practice	September – December	Students analyse the key features of popular music, exploring what makes a successful pop song. They develop ensemble skills through performing typical pop structures, riffs and chord progressions, and deepen their understanding of harmony by working with extended and repeated chord patterns. They strengthen their compositional skills by creating short pop-style pieces, applying conventions such as hooks, basslines, rhythms and simple production techniques.	This unit prepares students for KS4 by building secure analytical skills, developing confidence with chord progressions and introducing structured composition processes essential for GCSE coursework and performance units.	English – exploring lyrics, communication and audience impact Drama – expressive performance, stage presence and ensemble awareness Computing – early digital editing and arrangement skills
Film Music	January – March	Students explore how composers use musical devices to create mood, atmosphere and character in film. They investigate leitmotifs, instrumentation, texture and tempo, and apply these techniques to score short film scenes. They also develop ensemble performance skills by responding musically to visual cues, improving timing, expression and control.	This unit prepares students for KS4 by applying musical elements purposefully to a brief. It strengthens compositional decision-making, supports structured written justification and builds the analytical vocabulary required for GCSE listening and appraising.	Computing – audio layering and basic soundtrack creation Art – exploring visual mood and creative interpretation
Understanding and Analysing Key Features of Music Genres	April – July	Students study a range of contrasting genres, identifying the musical features that define each style. They compare rhythm, harmony, instrumentation and structure across genres and apply these features in their own compositions.	This unit prepares students for KS4 by building secure stylistic awareness, developing comparative analysis skills and strengthening independence with DAW software—essential foundations for GCSE	History – cultural origins and historical context of musical genres Computing – DAW sequencing, editing and digital sound design

Curriculum Summary Document

Year 9 – Music

Preparing for KS4: Genre, Composition and Musical Analysis

		They expand their music-technology skills by learning how to recreate stylistic elements in a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW), including drum patterns, virtual instruments and basic mixing.	composition and performance.	English – comparative analysis and evaluative writing
--	--	---	------------------------------	---