

MUSIC

Curriculum intent

Music is part of the fabric of everyday life. Through the study of music we develop confidence, resilience and creativity. We teach students to critically analyse and appreciate music; compose their own music; and perform on a variety of instruments. We aim to engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians through creative, practical lessons and a range of extra-curricular opportunities.

Assessment

Assessment is vital in music in order to support students to become the best possible musicians. In KS3, each practical task is assessed at the end of the project. In KS4, students are given regular verbal feedback and written feedback on practice assessments, as well as receiving the official grades and feedback sheets for each piece of coursework.

Careers

Studying music develops confidence, creativity and resilience alongside many other skills that are vital in lots of careers. However, popular career paths for music students include performing, composing and producing music, as well as teaching or working as a sound technician.

Curriculum strands:

Listening

Students will listen to pieces of music in order to learn about different genres and find inspiration for their practical work. They will develop their ear to recognise strengths and weaknesses in their performance and composition work. As students progress from year 7 to 11 they will learn to listen in greater detail, evaluating the stylistic features of different genres of music.

Performing

Students develop their performance skills and confidence on keyboards, ukuleles and singing throughout year 7-9. The performances that they work on increase in difficulty as students progress. Through learning to perform music, students also learn to read notation and chord sheets and they evaluate their work in order to further improve. In year 10 and 11 they can choose which instrument they would like to play or sing, before they choose whether they would like to perform or produce music in year 11.

Composing

Students are introduced to composition through creating their own piece on keyboards in year 7. They develop their skills in year 8, using GarageBand to compose short ideas, before composing a full piece using GarageBand in year 9. In year 10 and 11 students compose full pieces using GarageBand or an instrument, with a focus on a specific genre of music. Students regularly evaluate their work to further improve.

Producing

Students are introduced to GarageBand in year 8 to input music, before learning more about skills such as automation and effects in year 9. In year 10 and 11 students develop their production skills further, learning to record and mix music as well as continuing to compose in GarageBand. Students regularly evaluate their work to further improve.

Further Opportunities

If students are interested in taking part in more music, they can:

- Take part in music and/or performing arts enrichment. The termly enrichment schedule is available on the Parents Hub section of the school website.
- Start instrumental/vocal lessons. We offer lessons on a wide variety of instruments and singing, delivered by excellent teachers from Barnsley Music Hub. If you would like to receive a letter about instrumental lessons please email info@horizoncc.co.uk. Letters will be sent via ParentMail at the end of each full term ready for students to start at the beginning of the term after.
- Practice at home. If they don't have an instrument, free apps like GarageBand allow students to play virtual instruments and create music at home.

What students are currently working on

Year 7: Students learn to perform and compose on the keyboard. They sing as a class throughout this topic, which is done alongside listening activities to help develop their understanding of key concepts. They also learn about rhythm through playing the djembes.

Year 8: Students learn about Reggae music through performing 3 Little Birds on keyboard, ukulele or singing. Students learn to compose using GarageBand to create short musical ideas.

Year 9: Students learn about 12-bar Blues and Britpop through performance. As part of this they perform Don't Look Back in Anger on an instrument of their choice. They learn to compose an EDM piece and produce game music.

Year 10: Students are completing practice tasks to prepare for Component 2 and 3 which they will complete in year 11.

