

VERULAM SCHOOL

SPOTLIGHT ON:



EDITION 18 : 18/03/24

SPOTLIGHT ON MUSIC

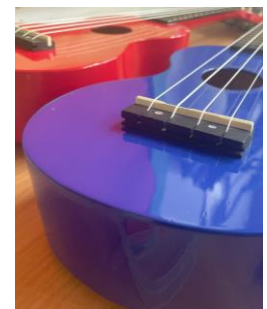
We recognise that many of our students are music enthusiasts and have already been involved in music-making before joining our school. The Music Department's vision is "music as information and identity" after the late ethnomusicologist John Blacking's famous quote "humanly organised sound". Taking this as a starting point, our department focuses on many different perspectives of 'music' and a range of music, challenging global issues of colonisation of music in education. Hence, our students have so far explored different musical styles and traditions across the world enriching their 'etic' and 'emic' perspectives of music. **Dr Taichi Imanishi**

Although the current Year 7 topic is called Japanese music, students learn musical development across different areas of the world, exploring different musical aesthetics. For example, the Japanese concept of ma, often translated as 'silence' or 'negative space', is an important aspect of music and other art forms in Japan. Students embrace the beauty of ma during their musical performances. Year 8 are currently exploring the history and music of Okinawa -- the southern islands of Japan. Okinawa has a rich culture developed by Japanese, Chinese, Korean and other Asian cultures. Therefore, their music is unique and different from that of the mainland. Learning about Okinawa and its music offers an

Year 9 students are enjoying British folk music, with many able to sing 'Drunken Sailor' while playing the chords on the ukulele. They embrace the energy and joy of 'folk music', extending their understanding of different musical aesthetics, which they began to develop by learning about the Visual-Kei Rock culture and playing complex rhythms on the darbuka. During CED, Year 9 students learned about the music industry including various jobs found within. They discussed issues of 'AI' in application to musical composition after studying 'Hibari: AI', an AI version of a Japanese singer who died over three decades ago. In the case study, the audience cries as they watch the singer appear on stage as if she came back to life. The students understood that this was morally challenging as well as recognising issues of laws and creativity in using AI as a creative tool.

Year 10 students are learning a great deal of music theory in preparation for their exams next year. So far they have learnt 'Concerto Through Time', 'Film Music', and 'Conventions of Pop'. They are completing their first composition drafts this term while rehearsing pieces/songs for their assessment and upcoming assemblies.

Chamber Orchestra has been learning a few arrangements including a chorale by J.S. Bach, Autumn Song by Tchaikovsky, and the Irish folk song Londonderry Air. Since the successful Wizard of Oz production, the orchestra has been developing their capacity and becoming a more solid ensemble. They are becoming bigger and stronger!



COMING UP SOON:

Date	Event	Time
Monday 18 th March	Year 10 Mocks U12/U13/U16 Football	All day
Tuesday 19 th March	Year 10 Mocks U12 Rugby Iftar Party	All day 5pm – 7pm
Wednesday 20 th March	Year 11 & 13 Leavers Group Photographs U15/U16 Football	AM
Thursday 21 st March	Year 8 Parents Evening Intermediate UKMT Kangaroo & Olympiad	4.15pm – 7.30pm
Friday 22 nd March		
Monday 25 th March	U14/U18 Football	
Tuesday 26 th March	22/23 Year 13 Graduation & Prizegiving	6pm - 7pm
Wednesday 27 th March	Year 7 & 8 Holi Celebrations Silver Reward Trip	P5 All day
Thursday 28 th March	End of term – early close at 12pm	
Friday 29 th March	Good Friday – school closed	All day