



## Verulam School: Key Stage 3 CURRICULUM INFORMATION

**Department: Music**

**Subject Leader: Dr Taichi Imanishi**

**Subject Vision:** Within the Verulam School Music Department, we aim to cultivate a strong foundation of musical skills and knowledge in our students, preparing them for more advanced studies at KS4. We emphasise a broad perspective on music education, encompassing both past and present, and promote multicultural music-making. By challenging existing musical norms, we encourage students to explore a diverse range of musical genres, styles, and cultures. Throughout the curriculum, students develop musical literacy through various notation systems, including basic staff notation. Solfège skills are honed via listening and performance exercises.

To facilitate a smooth progression to KS4, our curriculum focuses on:

- Building a strong foundation in music theory, including understanding scales, intervals, chord progressions, and cadences.
- Developing practical skills such as sight-reading, ear training, and technical proficiency in vocal and instrumental performance.
- Encouraging creativity through composition, improvisation, and arranging.
- Providing ample performance opportunities to build confidence and stage presence.
- Offering diverse musical experiences that foster an understanding and appreciation of different musical styles and cultures.
- By prioritising these elements in our curriculum, we aim to equip students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and experiences to transition successfully into KS4 music studies, setting them on a path towards musical excellence and personal fulfilment.

	YEAR 7					
Term	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topic/Unit Title	Vocal Study I (analysis of the song context, theory, and vocal techniques)	Keyboard Studies I (C major scale)  Students will be introduced to the	Elements of Music (Rhythm with other elements of music)	Introduction to East Asian Music  An introduction to East Asian music, with a focus	Play Along Chord Studies (staff notation exercise)	Arrangement Study I  In this unit, students will learn the basics of arranging music. They

	<p>Students will develop their vocal techniques and analyse songs in different contexts, learning about basic music theory and vocal warm-up exercises. They will also explore breath control, pitch, and rhythm in relation to singing.</p>	<p>keyboard, focusing on the C Major Scale. They will learn basic fingering techniques, simple melodies, and chord progressions.</p>	<p>This unit will explore rhythm and its connection to other elements of music, such as harmony, melody, and timbre. Students will engage in activities to compose and perform rhythmic pieces using various instruments.</p>	<p>on traditional music from countries like Japan, China, and Korea. Students will learn about unique instruments, such as the <i>shamisen</i> and <i>koto</i>, and explore different musical styles and genres.</p>	<p>This unit focuses on developing basic ukulele techniques, understanding harmony, and learning fundamental chords in the key of C major. Students will engage in reflective learning, enhance their reading skills, and improve cognitive and sensory-motor abilities related to playing the ukulele. Additionally, they will apply previously learned topics to practical assignments and become more familiar with staff notation, note names, and values. Aural skills will also be developed through playing and listening exercises.</p>	<p>will explore various techniques and approaches, such as transposition, reharmonisation, and orchestration.</p>
Assessment	<p>Assessment will primarily focus on students' singing abilities, concentrating on elements such as pitch, rhythm, accuracy, and expression.</p>	<p>Students will be assessed on their performance of given scales and pieces, with an emphasis on accuracy.</p>	<p>The assessment for this unit will be based on students' compositions of rhythmic pieces and their effective utilisation of various elements of music.</p>	<p>Students will be evaluated through an impromptu composition exercise using specific scales and their demonstrated understanding of relevant aesthetic values of Japanese music.</p>	<p>Assessment will be based on the accuracy of students' performances on ukulele/keyboard with assigned songs.</p>	<p>Students will be assigned a song to arrange, and their grades will be determined by their originality, creativity, and successful incorporation of relevant elements of music.</p>

<b>YEAR 8</b>						
<b>Term</b>	<b>Autumn 1</b>	<b>Autumn 2</b>	<b>Spring 1</b>	<b>Spring 2</b>	<b>Summer 1</b>	<b>Summer 2</b>
Topic/Unit Title	<p>Vocal Study II (analysis of the song context, theory, and vocal techniques)</p> <p>Building on Vocal Study I, students will further develop their vocal techniques and analyse songs in different contexts, focusing on advanced music theory and vocal exercises</p>	<p>Keyboard Studies II (Blues in C Major)</p> <p>Students will delve into the blues genre, learning the 12-bar blues progression and accompanying chords in C Major. They will explore improvisation techniques and perform blues pieces on the keyboard.</p>	<p>Introduction to Drum-Kit (Basic 8-beat) and Composing</p> <p>An introduction to the drum kit, focusing on the basic 8-beat pattern. Students will learn about different drum kit components and how they are used to create various rhythms. They will also begin composing simple pieces using their newfound drumming skills.</p>	<p>Introduction to Okinawan Music</p> <p>Students will be introduced to the unique music of Okinawa, exploring traditional instruments such as the sanshin and the musical styles associated with this region.</p>	<p>Composing to a brief (minimalism)</p> <p>Students will compose pieces adhering to a minimalist approach, focusing on simplicity and repetition. They will be given a brief to create a minimalist piece that explores these concepts.</p>	<p>Arrangement Study II</p> <p>Expanding on Arrangement Study I, students will delve into beat-making techniques, exploring various styles, rhythms, and instruments to create original beats.</p>
	<p>Students will be assessed on their performance of a given song, focusing on accuracy in pitch and rhythm, as well as their application of advanced music theory and vocal exercises.</p>	<p>Assessment will be based on students' ability to play the 12-bar blues chord progression on the keyboard, and for extension, improvisation with both hands.</p>	<p>Assessment will focus on students' understanding of the drum kit components, their proficiency in playing the basic 8-beat pattern, and the quality of their composed pieces utilising drumming skills.</p>	<p>Students will be assessed on their knowledge of Okinawan music, traditional instruments, and musical styles, as well as their ability to identify and apply key elements of Okinawan music in their work by performing a themed piece with given elements of music.</p>	<p>Assessment will be based on students' minimalist compositions, with emphasis on their successful application of simplicity and repetition concepts.</p>	<p>Students will be evaluated on their original beats, considering their exploration of various styles, rhythms, and instruments, as well as their overall creativity and skill in beat-making techniques.</p>
<b>YEAR 9</b>						
<b>Term</b>	<b>Autumn 1</b>	<b>Autumn 2</b>	<b>Spring 1</b>	<b>Spring 2</b>	<b>Summer 1</b>	<b>Summer 2</b>

<p>Topic/Unit Title</p>	<p>Vocal Study III (analysis of the song context, theory, and vocal techniques)</p> <p>Further building on previous vocal studies, students will refine their vocal techniques, analyse songs in different contexts, and explore more advanced music theory concepts and vocal exercises.</p>	<p>Keyboard Studies III (<i>Visual Kei</i> Japanese Rock Music in B flat major)</p> <p>Students will explore the <i>Visual Kei</i> genre, focusing on B Flat Major. They will learn about the unique style, techniques, and instrumentation of this Japanese rock music subgenre.</p>	<p>Arabic Drumming (Darbuka)</p> <p>Students will be introduced to the Darbuka, a traditional Arabic drum. They will learn various rhythms, techniques, and styles associated with the instrument and perform pieces using the Darbuka.</p>	<p>Introduction to World Music</p> <p>This unit will introduce students to a variety of musical styles from around the world. They will explore traditional and contemporary music from various cultures, engaging in listening, performance, and composition activities.</p>	<p>Composing to a Brief (DAW exercise and film music)</p> <p>Students will compose pieces using a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW), focusing on film music. They will be given briefs to create original compositions for specific scenes or moods.</p>	<p>Arrangement Study III (Beat making)</p> <p>Building on previous arrangement units, students will continue to explore beat-making techniques, delving deeper into various styles, rhythms, and instruments to create more complex and original beats.</p>
	<p>Students will be assessed on their advanced vocal techniques, ability to analyse songs in various contexts, and understanding of advanced music theory concepts. This can be evaluated through performances of advanced songs and written analyses of musical pieces.</p>	<p>Assessment will focus on students' understanding of the <i>Visual Kei</i> genre, ability to play in B Flat Major, and application of unique style and techniques associated with this subgenre. Evaluation can include performances of <i>Visual Kei</i> pieces and demonstrations of specific techniques.</p>	<p>Students will be evaluated on their mastery of Darbuka rhythms, techniques, and styles. This can be achieved through assessments of performances using the Darbuka, as well as quizzes or written assignments on the history and cultural significance of the instrument.</p>	<p>Assessment will be based on students' knowledge of various musical styles from around the world, including traditional and contemporary music. Evaluation can include listening exercises, short compositions or arrangements showcasing world music influences, and written reflections on the cultural contexts of different music styles.</p>	<p>Students will be assessed on their ability to compose original film music using a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW). Assessment can be based on their final compositions, as well as their ability to follow specific briefs and effectively use DAW software.</p>	<p>Evaluation will focus on students' creativity, skill in beat-making techniques, and ability to explore various styles, rhythms, and instruments. Assessment can include the analysis of their original beats, their use of advanced techniques, and their overall growth in beat-making abilities throughout the curriculum.</p>