

Walthamstow Academy – Music Curriculum Journey

Our Curriculum Intent

Music the soundtrack to our lives. Music connects us through people and places in our ever-changing world. It is creative, collaborative, celebratory and challenging. At Walthamstow Academy, music should bring our community together through the shared endeavours of: singing; ensemble playing; experimenting with the creative process; listening to friends and fellow pupils, and, of course, performing. The sheer joy of music-making can feed the soul of a school community, enriching each student while strengthening the shared bonds of support and trust which make a great school.

Our Curriculum Progression Model

When sequencing material we aim to build students' performance, composition and listening skills through the 5 years, with each strand becoming more complex, and involving a wider range of musical knowledge as a student progresses.

KS3

- In Year 7, students are introduced to the three strands of music. They experience whole-class singing, solo keyboard performance, ukulele performance and djembe performance. This range of instruments is chosen to help students understand how pitches and timbres can influence the experience of the listener, and how different instruments can require radically different techniques during performance.*
- In Year 8 we revisit the ukulele to build some higher-level skills and to understand how chords differ from melody, and the relationship between the two. Students are also introduced to musical notation in the form of chord diagrams and tablature. They also build listening/appraisal skills through an exploration of film music and its effect on mood. Students finish the year by building ensemble skills as they participate in a pop band with their classmates.*
- In Year 9 we further develop knowledge of musical theory and listening by introducing the black American musical tradition. Students explore gospel, blues and jazz through performance, listening and composition.*

KS4

- Students in Year 10 and 11 who have chosen to pursue GCSE Music follow the OCR specification. They find the foundations they have built at KS3 are significantly developed, and they are introduced to a much more rigorous treatment of musical theory and notation.*

Our KS4 curriculum prepares students for further studies, either at A-Level or Level 3 BTEC courses

Half Term	Curriculum Content	Assessment(s) <i>(assessment title, duration and approx date)</i>	Extra-Curricular Options <i>(Places to visit; wider reading; clubs to join)</i>
<p>Year 7 Curriculum Overview: In Year 7, students are introduced to the three stands of music. They experience whole-class singing, solo keyboard performance, ukulele performance and djembe performance. This range of instruments is chosen to help students understand how pitches and timbres can influence the experience of the listener, and how different instruments can require radically different techniques during performance.</p>			
<p>Year 7 HT1</p>	<p>Unit Title: Elements of Music Students will learn about/ develop skills of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocal technique • Use of Ableton 	<p>January Listening and Appraisal Exam</p>	<p>ABRSM Grade 1 Music Theory Keyboard lessons – for example at the academy</p>
<p>Year 7 HT2</p>	<p>Unit Title: Elements of Music Students will learn about/ develop skills of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solo keyboard performance • Composition of 5 note melodies 	<p>January Listening and Appraisal Exam</p>	<p>ABRSM Grade 1 Music Theory Keyboard lessons – for example at the academy</p>
<p>Year 7 HT3</p>	<p>Unit Title: African Music; song and percussion ensemble composition Students will learn about/ develop skills of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrumentation and timbre • Composing within a defined structure • Traditional musical devices (polyrhythm, call and response) 	<p>June Listening and Appraisal Exam</p>	<p>Visit the V&A to see the range of African instruments</p>
<p>Year 7 HT4</p>	<p>Unit Title: African Music; song and percussion ensemble composition Students will learn about/ develop skills of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrumentation and timbre • Composing within a defined structure • Traditional musical devices (polyrhythm, call and response) 	<p>June Listening and Appraisal Exam</p>	<p>Visit the V&A to see the range of African instruments</p>
<p>Year 7 HT5</p>	<p>Unit Title: Band skills Project: Soul - Lean on Me Students will learn about/ develop skills of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with each other within a band – ensemble awareness skills • Leading and participating in successful rehearsal • Reflecting and evaluating on own performance 	<p>June Listening and Appraisal Exam</p>	<p>Watch live videos of your favourite bands performing together, what ensemble awareness skills can you see and hear?</p>
<p>Year 7 HT6</p>	<p>Unit Title: Music Production Students will learn about/ develop skills of:</p>	<p>June Listening and Appraisal Exam</p>	<p>Download free music production software like garage</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remixing using Ableton and launchpad An introduction to musical texture and structure 		band or similar and try the skills on your home computer.
Term	Curriculum Content	Assessment(s) <i>(assessment title, duration and approx date)</i>	Extra-Curricular Options <i>(Places to visit; wider reading; clubs to join)</i>
Year 8 Curriculum Overview: In Year 8 we revisit the ukulele to build some higher-level skills and to understand how chords differ from melody, and the relationship between the two. Students are also introduced to musical notation in the form of chord diagrams and tablature. They also build listening/appraisal skills through an exploration of film music and its effect on mood. Students finish the year by building ensemble skills as they participate in a pop band with their classmates.			
Year 8 HT1	Unit Title: Introduction to the Ukulele; chords, riffs, melodies, reading tablature and chord diagrams Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to open chord accompaniments An introduction to alternative notation (chord diagrams and tablature) 	January Listening and Appraisal Exam	Students are able to take their ukulele home with them, this means they can continue to experiment and learn techniques after lessons have finished.
Year 8 HT2	Unit Title: Introduction to the Ukulele; chords, riffs, melodies, reading tablature and chord diagrams Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composing and performing riffs using the ukelele 	January Listening and Appraisal Exam	Students are able to take their ukulele home with them, this means they can continue to experiment and learn techniques after lessons have finished.
Year 8 HT3	Unit Title: Film Music; how music can tell a story and change your mood Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissonance and its power in creating mood; incidentals Horror film soundtrack composition 	June Listening and Appraisal Exam	Watch your favourite films again – without the picture, or watch the film without the music, and provide your own musical accompaniment. How does this show how music creates mood?
Year 8 HT4	Unit Title: Soundscapes and electronic instrumentation Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesiser programming. Sci-fi film composition. 	June Listening and Appraisal Exam	Watch your favourite films again – without the picture, or watch the film without the music, and provide your own musical accompaniment. How does this show how music creates mood?

Year 8 HT5	Unit Title: Reggae Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring the social and political context of a musical movement. Syncopation. Developing ensemble performance skills – how to lead and participate in a rehearsal. 	June Listening and Appraisal Exam	Watch 'Get up Stand Up – the Bob Marley Musical' either at the theatre or through a streaming service.
Year 8 HT6	Unit Title: Reggae Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring the social and political context of a musical movement. Syncopation. Developing ensemble performance skills – how to lead and participate in a rehearsal. 	June Listening and Appraisal Exam	Watch 'Get up Stand Up – the Bob Marley Musical' either at the theatre or through a streaming service.
Term	Curriculum Content	Assessment(s) <i>(assessment title, duration and approx date)</i>	Extra-Curricular Options <i>(Places to visit; wider reading; clubs to join)</i>
Year 9 Curriculum Overview: In Year 9 we further develop knowledge of musical theory and listening by introducing the black American musical tradition. Students explore gospel, blues and jazz through performance, listening and composition.			
Year 9 HT1	Unit Title: The Black American Songbook Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conventions of blues: 12 bar chord progression, walking bass etc. Improvisation using the blues scale. 	January Listening and Appraisal Exam	The London, Sugar and Slavery gallery at the Museum of London Docklands highlights the connection to slavery of some of Britain's oldest cultural organisations.
Year 9 HT2	Unit Title: The Black American Songbook Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyrical structure and composition. Ensemble performance and reflection. 	January Listening and Appraisal Exam	The London, Sugar and Slavery gallery at the Museum of London Docklands highlights the connection to slavery of some of Britain's oldest cultural organisations.
Year 9 HT3	Unit Title: Live Performance Project: song choice Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mastery of complex parts (extended chord progressions etc). Ensemble awareness, and rehearsal skills. 	June Listening and Appraisal Exam	This project feeds into a public lunchtime concert where students are able to participate in our watch and appraise.
Year 9 HT4	Unit Title: Live Performance Project: song choice Students will learn about/ develop skills of:	June Listening and Appraisal Exam	This project feeds into a public lunchtime concert where

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage presence and audience engagement. • Reflection of performance (own/group). 		students are able to participate in our watch and appraise.
Year 9 HT5	Unit Title: Music Production Project – Found sounds Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating and developing musical ideas. • Working with samples. 	June Listening and Appraisal Exam	Students are encouraged to make use of the 90 day free trial offered by Ableton so they can explore this further at home.
Year 9 HT6	Unit Title: Music Production Project – Found sounds Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing live arrangement with Ableton Live and a MIDI Pad controller. • Opportunities to record vocals in the recording studio (outside of lesson). 	June Listening and Appraisal Exam	Students are encouraged to make use of the 90 day free trial offered by Ableton so they can explore this further at home.
Term	Curriculum Content	Assessment(s) <i>(assessment title, duration and approx date)</i>	Extra-Curricular Options <i>(Places to visit; wider reading; clubs to join)</i>
Year 10 Curriculum Overview: <i>What will year 7s study and learn this academic year? Why this/ why now?</i>			
Year 10 HT1	Unit Title: Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 		
Year 10 HT2	Unit Title: Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 		
Year 10 HT3	Unit Title: Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 		
Year 10 HT4	Unit Title: Students will learn about/ develop skills of:		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 		
Year 10 HT5	Unit Title: Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 		
Year 10 HT6	Unit Title: Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 		
Term	Curriculum Content	Assessment(s) <i>(assessment title, duration and approx date)</i>	Extra-Curricular Options <i>(Places to visit; wider reading; clubs to join)</i>
Year 11 Curriculum Overview: <i>What will year 7s study and learn this academic year? Why this/ why now?</i>			
Year 11 HT1	Unit Title: Ensemble Performance NEA Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensemble awareness. • Roles within musical forces 	NEA (15% of grade)	Performance opportunities at Agora and End of Year Concerts.
Year 11 HT2	Unit Title: Conventions of Pop (aos) Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of pop music from 1950's RnR to presnet day. • Use of voices, guitars and synthesisers in pop music. 	Feb PPE	Tiny desk appraisals.
Year 11 HT3	Unit Title: Film and Video Game Music (aos) Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of music as a story teller and mood changer. • How composers manipulate musical elements. • Extended writing response 	Feb PPE	Watching films scored by John Williams, Hans Zimmer, John Barry etc
Year 11	Unit Title: Revision of all areas of study	June PPE	N/A

HT4	Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bespoke revision techniques that are effective for the music exam. • Recap of all examined content. 		
Year 11 HT5	Unit Title: Exam practice and final revision Students will learn about/ develop skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to ace exam questions. • Quick wins of how to boost marks in a wide variety of questions. 	N/A	N/A