

Curriculum Overview – Year 8				
When?	What?	Why?	How?	Support
Autumn Term	What is Music? – Students are guided to form their own opinions about music and to challenge their preconceptions about what they think music is. This terms work explores the boundaries of music and explores some of the philosophical approaches to their understanding of what exactly music is and what it means to us.	Music is on an ongoing path of evolution. This generation of young musicians will be the ones who shape its direction in the coming years. In order for music to be pushed forward the boundaries have to be pushed. This terms work explores the work of musical outliers like John Cage who have created music that defies conventions and what impact that has had on the music around it.	What students know and understand about music is challenged in a series of activities that explore the boundaries of music. Students experiment with innovative musical techniques such as serialism, minimalism and fluxus.	Lists of wider listening opportunities will be published.
Spring Term	World Music – If I were a teenager in another country what would I listen to? This terms work explores the popular music from different cultures and relates it back to our own experiences of music.	This terms work aims to make musical connections between our cultures and the cultures of young people around the world. Western popular music has spread around the world but each cultures has interpreted it differently. We can get to know more about ourselves by seeing what parts of our culture has been adopted by others.	Students explore the musical traditions and popular music of regions around the world. The students learn about different musical instruments, how they are used and what they represent in different cultures. Students experiment with creating popular music that fuses elements from different cultures.	Lists of wider listening opportunities will be published.

Summer Term	Bringing it all together – students work together to recreate a song of their choice. They arrange their chosen music to suit their group. The students then record their work using our recording studio.	The music industry contributes £3bn a year to the U.K. economy. This term's work starts to help students understand the different roles within the wider music industry beyond that of a performer. Students practice the core skills of confidence, cooperation and dedication that make up a successful musician.	Students work through the term to improve their instrumental and vocal skills and regularly review their progress. Students are encouraged to record themselves performing and to be honest about their progress. In the final weeks of term students use our recording equipment to make a record of what they are able to do.	
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