Performing Arts **KS3 Music Curriculum Plan (2025-)**

Assessment for Performing Arts at KS3 is broken into three strands: **creating, performing and evaluating**.

Year 7 Music

Autumn → Spring → Summer →

Musical Toolbox	**Keyboard Skills**	**Composition**	**West Africa**
• Learning the Elements of Music • Developing and sharing musical opinions and tastes • Staff notation • Instruments of the orchestra and other ensembles • Developing aural skills	• Staff notation (continued) including rhythm • Constructing primary chords and chord sequences • Chromaticism	• Composer case studies • Rhythmic composition • Using melody, texture and timbre in composition	• Investigating traditions of Gambia and Guinea • Spotlight on Sona Jobarteh • Rhythmic devices including ostinato and polyrhythm • Class djembe workshops with a focus on rhythm • Improvisation
Assessment: • Baseline listening quiz (**evaluating**) • 'Oh When The Saints' performance (**performing**)	*Assessment:* • Keyboard performance (**performing**)	*Assessment:* • Composition project - peer and self assessed (**creating**)	*Assessment:* • Group composition a Guinean style (**creating**) • End of topic written quiz (**evaluating**)

Year 8 Music

Autumn → Spring → Summer

Ragtime	Jazz	Film Music	Composing for Media	Hip Hop
• Investigating historical context & the Slave Trade • Spotlight on Scott Joplin • Key musical features • Sharpening aural skills *This topic pairs with **Jazz***	• Investigating historical context & evolution from Ragtime and Blues • Spotlight on Louis Armstrong • Key musical features • 20th and 21st century stylistic developments • Fusion & film • Improvisation	• Revising and applying Elements of Music • Purpose of music in film, TV and adverts • Tonality, consonance/ dissonance and scales *This topic pairs with **Composing for Media***	• Music in other forms of media (radio, podcasts, games) • Planning and executing a composition • Introduction to music technology for composition	• Investigating cultural origins and practitioners • Spotlight on DJ Kool Herc • DJ-ing techniques • The piano and Hip Hop
Assessment: • Ragtime piano performance (**performing**) • End of topic written quiz (**evaluating**)	*Assessment:* • 12-bar blues improvisation (**performing**) • End of topic written quiz (**evaluating**)	*Assessment:* • AfL and teacher observation (**evaluating**) • Preparation for Composing for Media	*Assessment:* • Composition to a chosen brief/film clip - peer and self-assessed (**creating**)	*Assessment:* • Keywords quiz (**evaluating**) • Performance - keyboard, vocal, music technology (**performing**)

Year 9 Music

Autumn → Spring → Summer →

Music & War	Music Technology	20th Century Pop	Musical Theatre	Music, Society & Politics
• Exploring case studies from C19th to present: Napoleonic, WWI, WWII, Vietnam, and War on Terror • Revising conventions of Jazz in WW2 Swing	• Exploring history of music technology • The digital audio workstation • Audio recording using an audio interface • MIDI recording using a MIDI keyboard • Chord progressions in different keys • Vocal techniques	• Investigating social and technological impact on music • Case studies: Rock & Roll, Disco and Reggae • Revisiting Jazz & Blues • Listening/performing activities throughout • Connections to KS4 Music/Music Tech	• Development from opera to present • Theatrical and technical elements of a musical • Case studies and listening activities • Performance opportunities	• Music of protest • Censorship in music: case study of Nazi Germany • Music in political campaigns • Using chord progressions to construct songs
Assessment: • Swing performance (**performing**) • End of topic written quiz (**evaluating**)	*Assessment:* • Own composition on Bandlab responding to a brief set by a peer (**creating**)	*Assessment:* • GCSE-style listening questions • Research project in style of KS4 Music Tech (**evaluating**)	*Assessment:* • Extended written research project (**evaluating**)	*Assessment:* • Group/solo songwriting project (**creating/performing**)