

Year 7 Music

Stepping Up 2: Ukulele and Keyboard



Students are continuing to develop the fundamental performance and listening skills to access our curriculum. This includes core playing techniques for ukulele and keyboard, as well as increasingly complex notation forms and musical vocabulary to describe what they are hearing.

Previous topic:

Stepping Up 1: Singing and Drumming

Next topic:

New Directions 1: Experimental Music

Core knowledge/skills/concepts

From Year 7 to Year 13 we constantly embed the core elements of music: Melody, Articulation, Dynamics, Tempo, Structure, Harmony, Instrumentation, Rhythm and Texture (MAD TSHIRT). This vocabulary, alongside a growing understanding of music notation, allows students to articulate opinions about music and how it was made. Giving them the language to talk about music and equipping them with skills to create it is at the centre of everything we do. Every lesson involves practical music making as either a performer or composer on a range of instruments and in diverse contexts. Students will practise these skills more deeply as their musical learning journey continues through school.

Ukulele

- Safe care of musical instruments
- Finger shapes for chords C, F, A minor and G
- Strumming patterns
- Singing and playing at the same time
- Ensemble skills: keeping in time, balance
- Rehearsal skills: confidence, resilience, reflection

Keyboard

- Riffs and ostinatos
- Chords
- Performing melodies
- Bass lines
- Two hands together
- Vamping
- Ensemble skills: keeping in time, balance
- Rehearsal skills: confidence, resilience, reflection

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Essential vocabulary

- MAD TSHIRT (Melody, Articulation, Dynamics, Tempo, Structure, Harmony, Instrumentation, Rhythm, Texture)
- Chord, major, minor, strumming pattern, riff, ostinato, bass, vamp

Threshold concepts

Students come into KS3 music with a whole host of different background experiences. Because of this, the most important thing above all else is a willingness to try things as a musician. Be brave, make mistakes, have fun! There are no opportunities closed to someone beginning their musical journey!

Opportunities for reading

In music lessons students will read contextual information about the music they are creating from slides and handouts. They will gain increasing confidence with the technical vocabulary used to talk about music, including musical directions in English, Italian and German. Equally important is frequent exposure to musical notation in its myriad guises. This helps to unlock different types of comprehension, creates connections between sound and symbol, and offers access to the world of written music.

Musical notation

Lyric sheets, YouTube playing along videos, drum grids (for strumming patterns), chord diagrams, stave notation (treble clef pitch with notes labelled).

How and when will the core learning be assessed?

Students will be assessed on their holistic development as a musician over time with projects designed to showcase ever-maturing musical understanding. Our assessments are linked to the National Curriculum's core pillars of Performing, Composing and Appraising in equal measure. These are formative in nature and are used to give students verbal feedback in the moment. Students track their progress against our core competencies and will reflect on their work in lessons, with recordings of classwork documented and revisited at regular intervals for self/peer review.

Links to other topics/subjects