**Music Department**

**The curriculum**

Music is taught throughout the school. At KS3, all students study music. At KS4 both music and performing arts (music) are taught at GCSE level.

**Music at Key stage 3**

Students in Yrs 7 and 8 receive three music lessons per fortnight and students in Yr 9, one lesson per week. The curriculum is based on skill development and allows students to develop as performers, composers and informed listeners.

**How can I help my child with their music work?**

Many students find that taking individual instrumental lessons is very helpful to musical progress. Students may also find that attending an extra-curricular group is helpful to their progress so if you could encourage your child to do so, that would be very helpful.

The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) has resources on the music department pages.

The music team are also more than willing for students to stay after school, in order for them to complete homework or if they require any assistance with a particular piece of work. The Internet is also an excellent resource to research information and students will find Youtube a useful resource.

If you do require any more information regarding your child‘s course, content or any aspect of the music programme, then please contact your child‘s music teacher.

**What do students study at KS3?**

KS3 students follow a themed curriculum focused on developing progress in the following five areas….

1. Performance: both as an individual and within ensembles
2. Composition
3. Listening to music and identifying musical features
4. Appraising your own work and that of others
5. Understanding of musical genres (including study of historical and contemporary examples)

**The table below displays the units of work pupils will study during key stage 3**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Year 7** | **Year 8** | **Year 9** |
| **Term 1** | **The Voice:**Ensemble performance:**Theory:**Musical elements, pitch and notation, musical vocabulary, intervals, instruments of the orchestra | **Blues and Jazz:**Ensemble performance and improvisation**Theory:**Chords and structure, pitch and notation, musical vocabulary, blues and jazz forces | **Skill Acquisition:**Group performance and arrangement**Theory:**Chords and structure, notation, stagecraft, musical context  |
| **Term 2** | **Pop music:** Ensemble performance and arrangement**Theory:**See term 1 | **Dance music:** Ensemble performance and arrangement**Theory:**See term 1, context of dance music | **Variations:**Group composition and performance**Theory:**See work covered in term 1 and Yr 8 (revision) |
| **Term 3** | **World Music:**Ensemble performance:**Theory:**Revision of topics covered, context of world music | **Music for the Media:**Group composition and performance**Theory:**Revision of topics covered, context of music for the media | Preparation for N10 |

**Music at KS4**

**GCSE Music (AQA)**

The course offers an opportunity to study a wide range of musical styles, to compose and to perform. Students will study different styles of music and set works, answering questions about them in an exam. Students will learn to perform as an individual and within an ensemble, submitting two performances. Students compose two of their own pieces and develop IT skills in scoring them.

**Home Learning Tasks:**

Tasks may consist of research into different historical music eras and music genres. Students will also be asked to practice, revise and produce notes on different musical elements. Sometimes students may be asked to listen to musical examples using Youtube.

**Components:**

**Component 1:** **Understanding music: 40%**

Students will complete a final 90 minute exam in Yr 11 which consists of listening to musical excerpts and answering questions. This exam is externally assessed

**Component 2**: **Performing music 30%**

Students perform two pieces, one as part of an ensemble on one or more instrument (including voice). This coursework is internally assessed and externally moderated.

**Component 3:** **Composing music 30%**

Students compose two pieces of music, one to a brief and one of their own choice

**How can I help my child with this work?**

In order to create successful performances, it is strongly advisable for students to be provided with individual instrumental or vocal lessons although this can be discussed with the music department. Students should have the opportunity to practice their performances at home and to try out composition ideas. The internet is an excellent resource for students so they can research musical genres and source sound examples and access to Youtube is very helpful (although this can be accessed within the music department with permission from a member of staff).

**Performing Arts at KS4**

**RSL L2 Certificate in Performance for Music Practitioners (Rockschool)**

**This qualification is equivalent to GCSE and calculated in progress 8**

It should be noted that the course is taught as a music only course (without a drama or dance element). This course offers students opportunities to improve their skills as a performer both as individual and within an ensemble. They appraise their own work and the work of others and consider the way in which performances are shaped and developed.

**Home Learning Tasks:**

Tasks may consist of research into musical items and preparation of materials for practical lessons. Students will also be asked to practice and appraise their own work. Sometimes students may be asked to listen to musical examples using Youtube.

**Units of work:**

Students will complete a core unit of live music performance. They will then complete two further units. Work will include performing as part of a group, improving individual musical skills, evaluating performances and recording.

**How can I help my child with this work?**

In order to create successful performances, it is advisable for students to be provided with individual instrumental lessons although this can be discussed with the music department. Students should have the opportunity to practice at home. The internet is an excellent resource for students so they can research musical genres and source sound examples and access to Youtube is very helpful (although this can be accessed within the music department with permission from a member of staff).

**Music within the extended curriculum**

**Extra-curricular groups**

All students are invited to participate in music within the extended curriculum. Various ensembles are available during lunchtimes and after school and students are encouraged to perform in events including the annual Carol Service at the Victoria Hall, school concerts, gigs both in and outside of school, showcases, assemblies and masses. Current extra-curricular ensembles include Senior Orchestra, Junior Orchestra, Choir, String groups and various bands and small ensembles. To enquire about extra-curricular groups, please speak to a member of the music department staff.

**Peripatetic teaching**

The department currently works with 6 visiting peripatetic staff. Currently the following tuition is available within St Joseph’s College:

Woodwind instruments; Brass instruments; String instruments; Piano; Voice; Drum Kit; Guitar