

Music, Year 8

Half term 1	OFFBEAT - (Exploring Reggae and Syncopation) This unit explores reggae music and culture it comes from. After exploring the origins of reggae music as a one of a number of different styles of Caribbean music, pupils learn about the importance of bass lines in reggae music and how offbeat chords are a key feature of music in this genre.
Half term 2	KEYBOARD SKILLS - (Exploring keyboard knowledge) This unit explores the basic principles of keyboard functions and keyboard technique and to use them effectively in composing and performing music.
Half term 3	JUST PLAY - (Exploring Musical Skills) This unit explores pupils instrumental and ensemble skills. Understanding how music works and applying this understanding to their performance techniques.
Half term 4	AFRICAN MUSIC - (Exploring Polyrhythms) This unit explores the main rhythmic musical features and devices used in African music, particularly the African drumming tradition of West Africa.
Half term 5	SOUNDTRACKS - (Exploring Film Music) This unit aims to give pupils the experience of being “film soundtrack composers” and explores the challenges and musical devices used in film soundtrack composition. The unit focuses on three genres of film soundtrack: Action/Thriller Soundtracks, ‘Western’ Soundtracks and “Horror Movie” Soundtracks.
Half term 6	JAZZ IMPROVISATION - (Exploring Improvisation and the blues) This unit develops pupils’ understanding of bass lines and chords as a harmonic foundation upon which a melody can be constructed upon and as a foundation for improvisation.
Homework expectations	Regular homework is set linking to the topic studied.
By the time you finish key stage 3 you’ll be...	You will have the skills to look at taking Music as a GCSE option. All skills learnt have been focusing on performing, composing and appraising all elements that make up the Music GCSE.