



Dear Parents and Guardians,

For KS3 in Term 2 will include working on some of the fundamental skills that future musicians and composers need to possess, such as a solid grasp of rhythm and pulse, understanding and being able to use the elements of music creatively and improvisation. Lessons will also include some work on understanding music notations and learning the correct terminology for each topic. Students will be using their voices as well as playing different instruments.

The Core Topics

By the end of Key Stage 3 students will be able to perform, improvise and compose music in a variety of styles and settings. The focus for this term is on singing and keyboard skills for Grade 5, rhythm work for Grade 6, the elements of music for Grade 7 and improvisation/composition for Grade 8.

How can you help?

Encourage your child to listen to lots of music from different styles and cultures (Grade 5). You could get them to clap the main beat along to the recording or come up with a rhythmic pattern of their own (Grade 6), ask them to explain how the composer uses the elements of music to achieve a certain mood (Grade 7) or encourage them to try and emulate techniques heard in recorded improvisations (having instruments available at home is obviously very beneficial).

Homework

All students will be given keywords to learn during the lessons and should be encouraged to practise the lesson material and main concepts on their respective instruments.

MUSIC CURRICULUM CONTENT FOR FEBRUARY 2017

GRADE 5	Improving our vocal and ensemble skills Developing keyboard skills Learning about different musical cultures
GRADE 6	Learning about the fundamentals of rhythm and pulse (beats, bars and bar-lines)-clapping rhythms, playing percussion instruments and composing with rhythm Basic music notation (semi-breves, minims, crotchets and quavers) Understanding and creating rhythm grids Acquiring basic guitar and keyboard skills Listening to examples from different styles/cultures

GRADE 7	Learning how to use the elements of music (tempo, pitch, dynamics, timbre, texture) creatively Developing guitar and keyboard skills Composing a free piece using the elements of music Listening and evaluating the use of the elements by different composers
GRADE 8	Learning about scales (C major and its modes) and basic chords on keyboard/guitar Composing with a given scale or mode (improvising and constructing melodies) Learning about musical structure Listening to and analyzing improvisations in different styles and cultures

Kind regards,

Mr Themis Gkikopoulos

Teacher of Music