



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the January Curriculum Guide for Music.

Music 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, instrumental and vocal skills (guitar, keyboard and drums/percussion) and an understanding of music theory basics and different styles/genres. Lessons will also include some work on understanding music notation and learning the correct terminology for each topic.

### **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 basic notation for Grade 6, the elements of music for Grade 7 and improvisation and Composition for Grade 8 but more importantly, students will be acquiring and developing band/ensemble skills and improving their musicianship.

### **How can you help?**

Encourage your child to listen to lots of music from different styles and cultures or, if possible, attend music concerts and/or festivals with live music performances. Having instruments available at home is obviously very beneficial - please contact Mr Themis if you are considering purchasing one for your child.

GRADE 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Basic music notation (semi-breves, minims, crotchets and quavers)</li><li>• Guitar, keyboard and drumming skills</li><li>• Listening to examples from different styles/cultures</li></ul>
GRADE 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learning how to use the elements of music (tempo, pitch, dynamics, timbre, texture) creatively</li><li>• Guitar, keyboard and drumming skills</li><li>• Understanding lead sheets and chord charts</li><li>• Listening and evaluating the use of the elements by different composers</li></ul>
GRADE 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Music theory (scales and chords, harmony)</li><li>• Guitar, keyboard and drumming skills</li><li>• Composing with a given scale or mode (improvising and constructing melodies)</li><li>• Ensemble (band) skills and popular songwriting</li><li>• Listening to and analysing improvisations in different styles and cultures</li></ul>

## **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.

## **Useful Websites:**

<https://www.mymusictheory.com/>

**<https://www.musictheory.net/>**

<https://www.focusonsound.com/>

<http://www.mtrs.co.uk/subscriptions/rhythm%20pulse.htm>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zmsvr82>

Kind regards,

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Teacher of Music