



Dear Parents and guardians,

Welcome to the October Curriculum Guide for Music.

Music for KS3 in Term 1 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 notation 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 rhythm work 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">• Learning about the fundamentals of rhythm and pulse (beats, bars and bar-lines)-clapping rhythms• Basic music notation (semi-breves, minims, crotchets and quavers)• Guitar skills (strumming chords with different rhythms)• Guitar notation (tablature)• Listening to examples from different styles/cultures
GRADE 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning how to use the elements of music (tempo, pitch, dynamics, timbre, texture) creatively• Guitar and keyboard skills (chords and melodies)• Understanding lead sheets and chord charts• Composing a free piece using the elements of music• Listening and evaluating the use of the elements by different composers
GRADE 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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)• Ensemble (band) skills and popular songwriting• Listening to and analysing improvisations in different styles and cultures

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.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