



# Key Stage 3 – Years 7&8

## Music

### Year 7 Outline

In Year 7 students are given opportunities to learn to perform on a variety of musical instruments, to compose music using both written forms of notation and through exploring music technology using computer generated software. The curriculum has been designed to take students on a journey from the rudimentary tool kit of the musical elements, to developing an understanding of world music, western orchestral music and programmatic content, whilst concluding the year by learning about computer game music and how this links to current careers within the music industry. We appreciate that some students learn a musical instrument beyond their classroom lessons and other students only access music in class time, therefore resources are designed with extension and stretch challenges for the more musically able, whilst balancing the initial training support for our beginner musicians.

### Year 8 Outline

Year 8 begins with an exploration of Latin American music, starting off with samba drumming to reinforce the skills of rhythmic reading and interpretation, and then moving into other forms of Latin American inspired music which link to classical music genres and popular music formats. Students go on to develop a sense of harmonic understanding through blues music and rock and roll techniques, which then leads into a project on dance music, featuring music from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the modern day forms of electronic dance music. As in Year 7, students are given opportunities to perform and compose within these styles and to use both acoustic instruments and music technology platforms. Listening tasks focus upon using musical vocabulary and are reinforced within is tasks throughout the academic year. Students complete their music studies in Year 8 with a look into how the 20<sup>th</sup> century moves into multiple new directions.

### Group/Class structure

Music classes for Years 7 and 8 are taught in tutor groups. Lessons begin as whole class teaching and may use smaller group working activities in practice rooms when appropriate. The music suites are equipped with a wide variety of acoustic instruments and two Mac rooms for more specialist subject teaching.

### Teaching & Learning Style

Students are taught music once per week in Years 7 and 8, and are encouraged to take up a musical instrument (which includes singing) as an addition to their studies, but this is not compulsory. Students follow the National Curriculum guidelines and explore a mixture of listening, composing and performing activities within each taught unit. Students will work

as a whole class ensemble, in smaller groups and in pairs to provide variety and stretch opportunities. Music always aims to be an inclusive subject and promotes excellent skills in team work, listening development, cultural capital and individual aspiration.

## Assesment

Students may bring their own instrument to the lessons to encourage more sophisticated practical task outcomes and students are formally assessed within each taught unit for either performance or composition, depending upon the unit requirements. The school colour coding system is applied with the expectations for music clearly outlined on the assessment frameworks. Students are also encouraged to share any external music exam results (ABRSM, Trinity, Rock school etc.) with their class teacher too.

## Opportunities beyond the classroom

St Bart's music department runs extensive enrichment programmes, with numerous activities designed for differing musical abilities. For students just learning their instrument for example, the whole school orchestra provides an all-inclusive environment to encourage musicianship. For those more advanced musicians, the Big Band, Sixth Form stretch ensembles and school production opportunities provide more challenging environments. The school choir have performed at the Royal Albert Hall and with the BBC Children in Need, besides the customary carol service and in-school concert experiences, which also provide opportunities for those students who do not necessarily learn an instrument beyond the classroom. Traditional and contemporary music instruments are always encouraged and the music department staff endeavour to provide as many unique and enriching experiences as we possibly can.