



YEAR 7 MUSIC MY LEARNING JOURNEY

BASELINE ASSESSMENT



I will be building knowledge that is often missing in the later stages of KS2. This unit will help me close that gap by exploring the elements of music. I will study the fundamentals of music and learn what is needed to create a piece of music. The lessons will progress in a way that allows me to fully access and meet the expectations of the KS3 curriculum. I will be assessed in almost every lesson so that each one can be targeted to my needs. By the end of this term, I will understand pitch, dynamics, tempo, and rhythm. I will also be working towards a group performance in the final lesson.

SINGING SKILLS



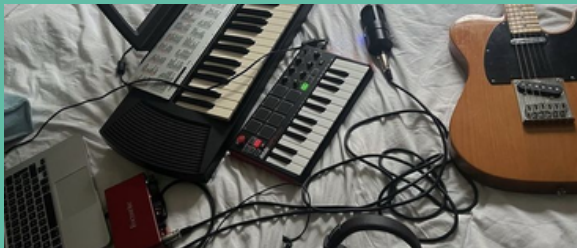
I will develop my singing skills by learning how to use my voice safely and confidently. I will explore different vocal warm-ups, breathing techniques, and ways to improve my pitch accuracy. Throughout the year, I will sing as part of a whole class, in small groups, and sometimes on my own. I will learn how to blend my voice with others and perform simple harmonies. By building these skills, I will gain confidence and control in my singing.

KEYBOARD SKILLS



Next, I will start learning how to use the keyboard properly. I will practise using the correct hand positions so I can play more confidently and smoothly. I will also learn the basics of music notation, including how to read notes on the staff and match them to the keys on the keyboard. As I build these skills, I'll be able to play simple melodies and understand how written music connects to what I play. This step will help me strengthen my coordination, accuracy, and confidence when performing on the keyboard.

MUSIC TECH COMPONENT



Next, I will learn how to input music into a DAW using MIDI. I will explore how to connect a MIDI keyboard, choose instrument sounds, and record my own melodies and rhythms into the software. I'll also learn how to edit my notes, change their length, pitch, and timing, and build simple musical patterns. This step will help me understand how digital music is created and give me the confidence to start making my own tracks.

UKULELE AND BAND WORK



Next, I will start developing my ukulele skills by learning different chords and playing techniques. I will practise holding the instrument correctly, changing between basic chords smoothly, and strumming with control. As I improve, I will begin to play simple songs and work with others to keep time and stay in rhythm. The end goal is to bring all these skills together to form a band, where we will perform a piece using our ukuleles as part of a group.

SAMBA



Finally, I will learn to perform Samba rhythms as part of a whole-class ensemble. I will explore different Samba instruments and understand the role each one plays in the group. I will practise key rhythmic patterns and learn how these layer together to create exciting polyrhythms. By listening carefully, keeping a steady pulse, and working as a team, I will help the class build a full Samba performance where all the rhythms interlock to create a powerful final piece.



YEAR 8 MUSIC MY LEARNING JOURNEY

THE BLUES



In Year 8, I will begin by studying The Blues, one of the most important foundations of modern music. I will learn about its history, including how it developed from African American experiences and musical traditions. I will explore the 12-bar blues structure, the blues scale, and typical chord patterns. I will also have the chance to perform and create my own blues riffs and melodies using instruments or digital tools. By the end of this unit, I will understand how The Blues has shaped many other genres.

ROCK & ROLL



I will learn about Rock and Roll, a genre that grew directly out of The Blues. I will focus on artists like Chuck Berry and Little Richard, and explore how fast rhythms, strong backbeats, and energetic vocals helped shape its unique sound. I will practise playing simple chord progressions on keyboards or guitars and create short Rock and Roll performances. This unit will help me understand how music began to change youth culture in the 1950s.

THE BEATLES



will then study The Beatles, one of the most influential bands in music history. I will explore how their songwriting, harmonies, instrumentation, and studio techniques helped transform pop music. I will learn about different musical features in their songs, such as melodic hooks and varied textures. I will also perform or recreate sections of Beatles songs, either as a group or individually. This unit will deepen my understanding of how popular music evolved during the 1960s.

REGGAE



I will look at Reggae, a genre rooted in Jamaican culture. I will explore key features such as offbeat rhythms, syncopation, and the relaxed groove that makes Reggae unique. I will study artists like Bob Marley and learn how the genre carries messages about peace, unity, and social change. Through instrumental and vocal work, I will perform simple Reggae rhythms and basslines. This unit will help me develop stronger rhythmic control and ensemble skills.

SOUL AND FUNK



I will then move on to studying Soul and Funk, two genres known for their expressive vocals and strong rhythmic energy. I will learn about artists such as James Brown, Aretha Franklin, and Stevie Wonder. I will explore features like groove-based basslines, syncopated rhythms, and dynamic contrasts. I will also practise performing short Soul or Funk sections using drums, keyboards, or vocals. This unit will help me improve my sense of timing and performance confidence.

HIP HOP & RAP



Finally, I will study Hip Hop and Rap, a modern genre that combines rhythm, spoken word, sampling, and beat-making. I will learn about how Hip Hop culture developed and how music producers use loops, beats, and digital tools to create tracks. I will experiment with creating my own rhythmic patterns and writing simple rap lyrics. I may also record or perform a short Hip Hop piece with a group. This unit will help me express myself creatively while understanding the modern music that shapes today's culture.



YEAR 9 MUSIC

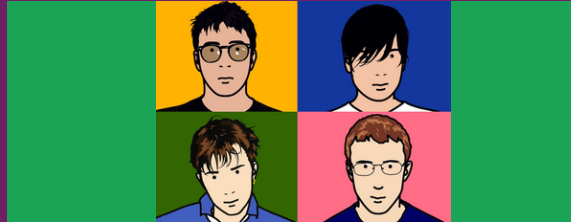
MY LEARNING JOURNEY

ROCK MUSIC



In Year 9, I will begin by exploring Rock Music and how it developed into one of the most influential genres in modern culture. I will look at different styles within rock, such as classic rock, punk, and alternative, and learn about key artists who helped shape each style. I will explore typical rock band instrumentation, guitar riffs, power chords, and strong drum patterns. Through group performance work, I will learn how to rehearse effectively and perform confidently as part of an ensemble. This unit will help me develop my coordination, stage presence, and musical independence.

BRITPOP



Next, I will study Britpop, a key British music movement from the 1990s. I will learn about bands such as Oasis, Blur, and Pulp, and explore how Britpop reflected British identity and culture at the time. I will analyse the musical features that make Britpop distinctive, such as catchy melodies, simple chords, and storytelling lyrics. I will also have the chance to perform or recreate parts of well-known Britpop songs. This unit will help me understand how music can shape and express national identity.

4-CHORD SONG



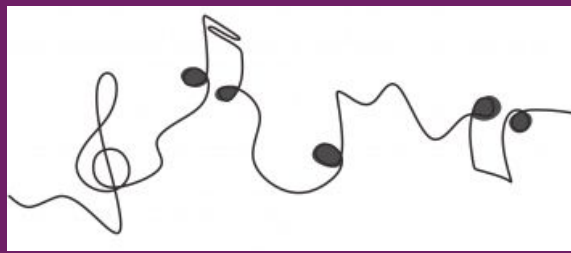
I will then explore the idea of the 4-Chord Song, learning how many popular songs are built using the same simple chord progression. I will learn how to play these common chords on keyboards, guitars, or using digital instruments. I will experiment with writing my own melodies over a 4-chord pattern and learn how structure and repetition shape a song. By working in groups, I will create and perform a short 4-chord piece, helping build my confidence in songwriting and composition.

FILM MUSIC



After that, I will study Film Music and explore how composers use music to support characters, mood, and story. I will learn about techniques such as leitmotifs, soundscapes, and underscoring. I will listen to famous film themes and analyse how instruments, tempo, dynamics, and texture help communicate emotion. I will also create my own short piece of film music by composing for a short clip or storyboard. This unit will help me understand how music influences the audience's experience.

MINIMALISM



Next, I will learn about Minimalism, a modern style of music that uses repetition, gradual change, and layered patterns. I will explore the work of composers such as Steve Reich and Philip Glass, and learn how minimalist pieces build complexity through simple ideas. I will experiment with creating my own short minimalist composition using rhythmic loops, melodic cells, and phased patterns. This unit will help me develop creativity, pattern-building skills, and awareness of musical structure.

BANDLAB PROJECT



To end the year, I will complete a BandLab Project, using digital tools to compose, arrange, and mix my own original track. I will learn how to use loops, virtual instruments, effects, and automation to shape my music. I will also explore basic production techniques such as layering, EQ, and balance. Throughout the project, I will develop independence by planning, creating, and editing my own work. This unit will help me gain confidence using music technology and prepare me for future music courses.



KS4 BTEC MUSIC TECHNOLOGY MY LEARNING JOURNEY

EXPLORING MUSIC TECHNOLOGY SKILLS



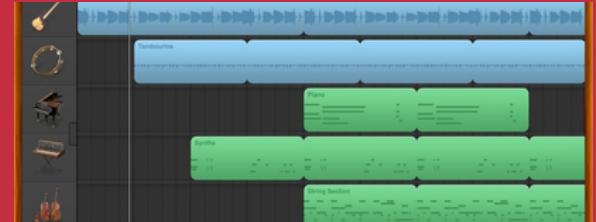
In KS4, I will begin by developing the core skills I need as a music technologist. I will learn how microphones, audio interfaces, MIDI instruments, and studio equipment work, and how to use them safely and effectively. I will experiment with recording techniques, sound capture, and the basics of digital audio. This foundation will help me understand how music technology supports both live performance and studio production.

USING DIGITAL AUDIO WORKSTATIONS



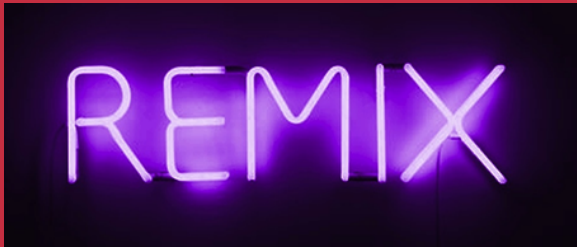
A large part of the course will focus on learning how to use a Digital Audio Workstation. I will explore features such as multitrack recording, editing, looping, quantising, automation, and mixing tools. I will practise building tracks from scratch, using both audio and MIDI. By the end of this section, I will be confident navigating the software and producing work that meets professional standards for coursework.

CREATING ORIGINAL MUSIC USING TECHNOLOGY



I will then move into composing my own music using technology. This includes developing ideas with loops, software instruments, virtual effects, and samples while working in a variety of styles such as EDM, hip-hop, pop, film, or ambient music. I will experiment with structure, harmony, rhythm, and texture to create pieces that show creativity and technical control. This unit will help me express my musical ideas independently and professionally.

PRODUCING AND REMIXING MUSIC



In this part of the course, I will focus on production and remixing skills. I will learn how to manipulate audio, chop samples, time-stretch, pitch-shift, and rebuild tracks into new versions. I will also explore EQ, compression, reverb, delay, and other effects to shape my sound. By creating remixes or re-produced versions of existing tracks, I will develop a deeper understanding of genre, style, and production techniques.

RESPONDING TO A MUSIC TECHNOLOGY BRIEF



As part of the qualification, I will be given a professional-style brief that asks me to create music for a specific purpose. This might include producing a track for a client, creating background music for media, or designing a soundscape. I will plan, develop, and refine my work while explaining my decisions. This section will help me learn how to meet deadlines, work independently, and think like someone working in the music industry.

PORTFOLIO AND REFLECTING ON MY WORK



Throughout the course, I will build a portfolio that showcases my best music technology work. I will reflect on what I have created, explain my processes, and evaluate how well my projects meet the brief. I will also consider how my skills have developed—such as recording, editing, mixing, and composing—and how I can continue to improve. This final stage will prepare me for further study in music technology or creative media.