

Year 7 Curriculum Content

Induction & Baseline Activities

An introduction to the study of Music at KS3, developing the skills of Performing, Composing / Improvising and Listening.

The earliest activities help Year 7 students to develop good working practices, using the keyboards, guitars and percussion instruments in the Music Department. Students work on individual tasks, in pairs and later in small groups, developing the essential social and musical skills.

Topics in Year 7

There are varied projects during the year, including:

- **Folk Music** – exploring musical arrangements
- **Form & Structure** – exploring musical structures and improvisation
- **Caribbean Music** – exploring syncopation and Reggae style

Singing Competition

Singing skills are developed throughout the year, with a focus in the Summer Term for all students in the Y7 Singing Competition. Each form competes with a song involving all the students, plus one involving a smaller group.

Year 8 Curriculum Content

Developing Skills & Teamwork

The activities in Year 8 continue with further projects which are designed to get the students working together. As they gain more confidence in using instruments, they build confidence in responding to the briefs set for performance and composition/improvisation.

Topics in Year 8

Again, various topics are offered, including:

- **Jazz / Blues** – exploring improvisation on the Blues Scale
- **Variations** – exploring techniques in developing musical ideas
- **African Music** – exploring Polyrhythms

Year 8 Singing Competition

Again, each Y8 form gets set with a song for the whole form and one for a small group.

Year 9 Curriculum Content

Developing Creativity

The study of Music in Year 9 moves more towards developing creativity, again through work with partners and small groups, as well as further opportunities to perform and appraise music through listening activities.

Topics in Year 9

These are geared around creative tasks and now developing music technology skills using *Cubase* and *Sibelius* – music industry standard applications for sequencing, production and score-writing. The topics in Year 9 include:

- **Film Music** – using Music Technology to create short film music tracks.
- **Fanfares** – exploring fanfares and musical “fusions.”
- **Song-writing** – developing songs, through collaboration on lyrics and music.

Enrichment activities

There is a full programme of Extra-Curricular Activities at Poole Grammar School, where students can enjoy working with others, of all ages, to work towards performances each term

The Autumn Term concludes with a School Concert and a Christmas Carol Service. Each year, all Poole Schools join forces for the Poole Schools’ Music Association Christmas Concert held each year in the Lighthouse Concert Hall.

Spring Term events include the PSA Musical Supper Evening with further concert performances from all our ensembles.

The Summer Term sees fewer large scale performances, due to the public exams taking place, but there are many chances for our musicians to perform in and out of school.

Skills developed in KS3

Music demands a range of skills, some of which are to do with the technical ability to play the right notes and rhythms on an instrument. However, there is also a lot to be learned about how to be creative and to work in partnership with others. We find that some students, though they may not be experienced or confident as musicians, are nevertheless able to develop their personal skills through teamwork and leadership.

Evidence of students’ work is collected through an extensive range of video and audio recordings.

Please see further information about the Music Department at Poole Grammar School by reading our **PGS Music Department Information Booklet** – available on the website.