



OVERVIEW

In Year 8, students will broaden their understanding of the interrelated musical dimensions through whole class ensemble work, playing a range of different band instruments such as keyboards, guitars, bass guitar, drums and percussion. They will encounter a range of genres, including: Classical, Romantic, Reggae, Mento, Ska, West African drumming, Blues and Jazz, RnB and Rock n Roll.

Aut

Tonality and Structure

- Develop instrumental skill alongside new knowledge acquisition.
- Study of 'set work' performance piece: 'In the Hall of the Mountain King' by Grieg
- Students learn and identify major, minor, chromatic and pentatonic scales, binary, ternary and variation form and performance directions.
- Students create a composition based on In the Hall of the Mountain King for a new ride at Alton Towers.

Assessment:

- Recorded performance of 'In the hall of the mountain King' on keys/uke/guitar
- Alton Towers composition created using Soundtrap.

Spr

Ensemble Musician - Jamaican Music

- Study of music from Jamaica (mento, ska and reggae)
- Musical features/characteristics
- Learn about major, minor chords and their construction, the primary chords, root position (and inversions)
- Perform Three little birds.

Assessment:

- Recorded performance of Three Little Birds 'skank' chords on Soundtrap with actual song backing.
- Performance of 'Guns of Navarone' melody.

Sum

The Creative Musician

- Development of Blues through listening, appraising and performance.
- Learn the 12 bar blues chord structure
- 7th chords
- Blues scale
- Students analyse structure of a blues
- Build improvisation skills.

Assessment:

- Recording of 12 bar blues chords in 'swung' style.
- 'Stinky feet blues' melody and improvisation on Soundtrap or as part of ensemble.

Useful resources for supporting your child at home:

[KS3 Music - BBC Bitesize](#)

[soundtrap.com](https://www.soundtrap.com)

[Chrome Music Lab \(chromeexperiments.com\)](https://chromeexperiments.com)

Homework:

Weekly practice on Instruments.

Please see ASPIRE timetable for music clubs and practice sessions