



**Overview**

In the first year of their GCSE Music studies students will split their time across the three inter-related components; performing, composing, listening and appraising. They will hone their skills as solo and ensemble performers, develop their knowledge of compositional techniques across many different genres and develop an in-depth knowledge of subject-specific terms and devices through focused listening.

**Autumn**

**Performing**

- Establishing standards and setting targets: first practical assessment/recording (own choice) and analysis – target setting.
- Learning to read notation – short extract.
- Perform intro and verse 1 'Africa' by Toto.

**Composing**

- Chord sequences – how to write a chord sequence in the key of G, understanding primary and secondary chords, inversions, common progressions.

**Listening**

- Musical elements focus MAD T-SHIRT then to set piece 'Africa'.

**Assessment:**

**Performing** initial performing recording and one more in HT2.

**Composing** – chord sequence in the key of G, fully notated and recorded on Soundtrap/ Noteflight.

**Listening** – weekly homework – focus on sound. 'Africa' set work Intro, verse 1 chorus test.

**Spring**

**Performing**

- Focus on expression – use of articulation/instrument specific techniques e.g. hammer on/off, vibrato, double tonguing. How to encapsulate style with effective articulation – ensemble performance recording HT4.

**Composing**

- Melody writing from given chord sequence – conjunct, disjunct melodies, intervals, rests, balance of repetition and contrast, use of ornamentation. Prep for 'free' composition.

**Listening**

- 'Africa' continued and completed. Film music focus.

**Assessment:**

**Performing** – ensemble performance recording HT4

**Composing** – completed composition with chord sequence and melody (mock 'free' composition)

**Listening** – mid-year exam on 'Africa' intro, verse 1, chorus and some general listening.

**Summer**

**Performing**

- Focus on ensemble performance – starting together, how to ensure balance, consistency across ensemble, use of articulation and instrument-specific techniques to encapsulate style. Recording HT6 and summer concert.

**Composing**

- 'Free' composition preparation continued and brief options given – completed rough draft by end of HT6. Composing strong initial ideas, how to develop ideas successfully – may include augmentation, diminution, use of specific intervals, arpeggios, changes in texture and timbre, overall structure.

**Listening**

- 'Badinerie' set work.

**Assessment:**

**Performing** – ensemble performance recorded HT6.

**Composition** – rough draft 'free composition' completed

**Listening** – End of year exam on 'Badinerie' and 'Africa' and film music.

**Useful resources for supporting your child at home:**

[KS3 Music - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Soundtrap.com](#)

[Chrome Music Lab \(chromeexperiments.com\)](#)

**Homework:**

Weekly listening homework on focus on sound.

Weekly practise – fortnightly recordings.

Fortnightly comp task.