

Welcome to the Music Department

Subject Leader: Mr M Ledger

Teachers: Mrs C Haywood

We also receive the services of 8 teachers from the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT):

Upper Strings – J Mold
Lower Strings – J Hubble
Woodwind – K Keeble
Brass – S Bennett
Percussion – L Smith
Guitar – C Reynolds
Voice – S Blunsdon
Keyboard – J Enright

Subject Overview

Key Stage 3: Years 7 and 8

In Year 7 students are taught a broad range of musical skills with performing, listening and theory work being the main focus initially. Students choose keyboard or guitar as their main performance instrument, but are also encouraged to sing and to try other instruments as well. In Year 8 the focus switches to composition and students are taught a range of techniques in a range of styles. The emphasis is on developing their own personal style and preference, as both performers and composers.

Key Stage 4: Years 9, 10 and 11

Students follow the Edexcel GCSE Music syllabus, and in Years 9 and 10, students are introduced to the four main areas of study (Western classical music, Vocal music, Music for stage and screen and Fusions). Students are set a number of compositional tasks to broaden their skills, as well as a range of performing options, theory work and listening and analysis work. In Year 11 there is a focus on the composition coursework and preparation for the final listening exam and performances.

Post 16

Students follow the Edexcel A Level Music syllabus. The course has three units (performing, composing, listening and analysis). Students prepare a recital, develop composition work in a range of styles, either to set briefs, or free composition. Students study a number of set works from the Edexcel anthology and develop theory and aural skills in preparation for the final exam.

Teaching Aims and Objectives

Our aim is to inspire students to develop their core musical skills from the experiences they have had prior to joining Chenderit. Where students have had a lot of music experiences we aim to develop their performing skills, and to broaden their experience by helping them apply these skills to other areas, such as composition, theory, listening and analysis. Where students have had less musical experience we aim to enable students to learn how music works through singing, learning how to perform on a keyboard or guitar, understanding the basic theory of notation and gradually introducing students to different styles and

composition techniques. We study a range of styles from western classical music, to popular music, music for stage and screen, and music from other cultures. We hope to help each student act on his or her particular passion for this subject, and aim to fully prepare those who wish to pursue music at college, university or in a future career.

Course Information

Key Stage 3

- Year 7 and Year 8:
 - Building blocks of music
 - Performing skills – keyboard / guitar / voice
 - Music for stage and screen
 - Western classical music
 - World music and fusions
 - Pop song / Club dance compositions
 - Vocal music
 - Film music composition
 - Blues and jazz

Key Stage 4

- Year 9:
 - Solo and ensemble performance
 - Composition techniques
 - Music for stage and screen
 - Music fusions
- Year 10:
 - Solo and ensemble performance
 - Free composition
 - Vocal music
 - Development of topics from Year 9
- Year 11:
 - Solo and ensemble performance
 - Set brief and free composition
 - Instrumental music (1700-1820)
 - Development of topics from Year 10
 - Coursework completion
 - Preparation for the final appraising examination

Post 16

- Year 12:
 - Performance recital preparation
 - Free composition
 - Technical composition tasks
 - Study of set works from the exam anthology
 - Analysis of unfamiliar Music
- Year 13:
 - Performance preparation and final recital
 - Completion of Bach Chorale technique tasks (coursework)
 - Completion of free or set brief composition
 - Study of set works from the exam anthology
 - Preparation for the final appraising examination

Homework Expectations (Including ICT resources and websites)

Key Stage 3

In key stage 3, students are set short tasks once a fortnight. Many of these tasks are supported on the VLE. These tasks may develop theory skills, or will be based around developing understanding of historical context and developing understanding of the set study piece for the current unit. The following links to websites will be helpful:

<http://www.musictheory.net/>

<http://gb.abrsm.org/>

http://www.bqfl.org/bqfl/custom/resources_ftp/client_ftp/ks2/music/piano/

Key Stage 4

In key stage 4, students are expected to prepare continually for performance opportunities, and are set weekly tasks based around four areas. These are theory tasks, developing understanding of a set work from the anthology, developing analysis skills, particularly when listening to unfamiliar music, or developing composition techniques.

Sixth Form

Post 16 students are regularly set 4 hours of work a week, divided between theory & harmony, research and essay writing, and composition. Students are also expected to develop their performing skills, and to engage in wider reading and listening.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

The following opportunities run throughout the year:

- Musical Theatre Society (MTS) – running on Thursday after school until 4.30pm. The school choir is incorporated into this.
- Light Orchestra – open to all instrumentalists, with no minimum standard required. Sectional rehearsals are on a lunchtime rota, and Playing Days are in the school calendar during the Autumn term.
- Performance Space – This runs after school on Wednesdays, and allows students to develop their instrumental skills on a range of instruments.
- Composition Clinic – This runs after school on Wednesdays, and helps students who have an interest in composing their own music, and supports those who are studying composition for exams.
- Every year there is a musical production or a pantomime. Recent shows have included 'Peter Pan', 'Hairspray', 'Aladdin' & 'Return to the Forbidden Planet'. The production for 2016-17 is 'Little Shop of Horrors'. In the Summer term we put on a musical cabaret evening, including recently 'A Night At the West End'.

There are regular performance opportunities. Every year there is a Christmas Concert and a musical production. The choir, through MTS, has recently performed in local concerts and at Wembley Arena. Students have the opportunity to perform in assemblies from time to time, and many of our students take part in groups in the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust.

Marking and Assessment

- In order to allow for progression through all key stages, work is marked in the same way from Year 7 onwards. All students perform regularly, and are given regular feedback, with a formal performance opportunity taking place three times per year on average. Students also take a listening test on regular occasions throughout the year (3 in Years 7 & 8, and more opportunities in Years 10 to 13). These are based on the Edexcel GCSE and A Level formats. From Year 8 onwards, students are also assessed on their composition skills.

- Students take a baseline test at the beginning of Year 7 which tests aural skills, knowledge and theory. This gives a clear idea of musical attainment at this stage, and allows us to prepare appropriate lessons for the ability range of each class.
- Students at key stage 4 and post 16 also complete regular listening tests and extended writing tasks, which are marked in a way that helps students to learn from mistakes, and helps them to develop their key skills ready for examinations.
- Spellings are corrected as per the school policy, with a particular focus on musical terminology.

Examinations

GCSE (Edexcel)

- Unit 1: Students record two performances (one solo and one ensemble). These are marked in school and sent to the exam board for moderation.
- Unit 2: Students complete two compositions under controlled conditions. These are marked in school and sent to the exam board for moderation.
- Unit 3: Students complete a listening paper (under exam conditions).

Current Year 11 specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2009.html>

Current Year 9/10 specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.html>

A level (Edexcel)

- Unit 1: Performance recital. This can be as a soloist, in an ensemble, or an improvisation
- Unit 2: Composition. Students complete two composition tasks, one of which is a Bach Chorale technique exercise
- Unit 3: Appraising. Students complete an exam which features listening and aural work, analysis, theory and essay writing.

Current Year 13 specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/music-2008.html>

Current Year 12 specification

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/music-2016.html>