

## Music

**Subject Leader: Mr A. Hawke**

**Subject teachers: Miss L. Wood**

**Peripatetic teachers: Mr S. Groome (Drums), Mrs S. Hall (Keyboard), Mr S. Oxborrow (Guitar, Bass, Ukulele)**

### **Department aims:**

*The Music department at Birches Head Academy gives students opportunities to explore many different musical styles using a wide variety of instruments and resources. We recognise and celebrate the importance of students' own musical interests, as well as music they may be less familiar with from different historical periods. We want students to become confident performers, songwriters, composers, analysts and critics of music, whether they are studying Electronic Dance music and creating their own Dance tracks on iPads or performing Haydn on the keyboard and discussing the conventions of Classical music.*

*The Music department offers a variety of clubs including Key Stage 3 Band, Key Stage 4 Band, Vocal Group and String Group. We also offer additional tuition in drums, keyboard, singing, guitar, bass and ukulele with our visiting peripatetic teachers.*

### **KS3**

*In year 7, the emphasis in Music is on enabling students to experience as many different instruments and musical resources as possible, including Samba drums, keyboards, guitars, singing, ukuleles, electronic drums and iPads (GarageBand software). As students' progress through year 8 and 9, we encourage them to specialise more in the instrument(s) of their choice. For example, it is possible for a keen guitarist to explore the entire year 9 curriculum through this instrument. This is excellent preparation for GCSE Music at KS4, where students are expected to have one principal study instrument for their solo and ensemble performances. The table below shows the current KS3 topics:*

### **KS3 Music Curriculum overview**

	<b>Term 1a</b>	<b>Term 1b</b>	<b>Term 2a</b>	<b>Term 2b</b>	<b>Term 3a</b>	<b>Term 3b</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Samba</b>	<b>Soul</b>	<b>Reggae</b>	<b>Folk</b>	<b>Pop</b>	<b>Electronic Dance Music</b>
<b>Year 8</b>	<b>African Music</b>	<b>Film Music</b>	<b>Blues</b>	<b>Blues</b>	<b>Hip-Hop</b>	<b>Classical</b>
<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Britpop</b>	<b>Musical Theatre</b>	<b>Pop: Ed Sheeran</b>	<b>Pop: Ed Sheeran</b>	<b>Songwriting</b>	<b>GCSE Taster Lessons: Star Wars</b>

### **KS4**

*At KS4, the Music department offers Edexcel GCSE Music. We believe that any student can study GCSE Music, regardless of whether they have had individual lessons on an instrument or can read music notation. Students are expected to complete controlled assessments in Solo Performance (15%), Ensemble Performance (15%) and Composing (30%). There is a final summer listening exam based on the set works students have studied throughout the course (40%). The tables below shows the current GCSE topics for year 10 and year 11 respectively.*

## GCSE Music Curriculum overview

	Term 1a	Term 1b	Term 2a	Term 2b	Term 3a	Term 3b
Year 10	Music for Stage & Screen: Star Wars / Defying Gravity	Music for Stage & Screen: Star Wars / Defying Gravity	Vocal Music: Queen Instrumental Music 1700 – 1820: Bach	Vocal Music: Queen Instrumental Music 1700 – 1820: Bach	Fusions: Esperanza Spalding Instrumental Music 1700 – 1820: Beethoven	Fusions: Esperanza Spalding Instrumental Music 1700 – 1820: Beethoven
Year 11	Vocal Music: Purcell Fusions: Afro-Celt Soundsystem	Vocal Music: Purcell Fusions: Afro-Celt Soundsystem	Completion of Controlled Assessment and Exam Preparation	Completion of Controlled Assessment and Exam Preparation	Completion of Controlled Assessment and Exam Preparation	Final Exam

### How can I help support my child's learning in Music?

At KS3, students will have one homework per topic. These homework activities will take the form of key spelling to learn an practice, research projects, worksheets or "take-away" homework menus which parents can help their child with. Additional homework may be set involving revision or practice in preparation for an assessment. If your child expresses an interest in learning a particular instrument, then it would be valuable for parents to purchase that instrument so their child can practice at home. This is often more affordable than you may think – guitars, for example, can be found for as little as £30 (new) through reputable mail-order companies/websites. At KS4, students will have a mixture of revision, past-papers and instrumental practice assignments. It is crucial that KS4 student practice on their instruments regularly so they are well-prepared for Performance assessments. They should do this at home and in school – the Music practice rooms are available to book at break/lunch times.

### Useful websites

BBC Bitesize: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zpf3cdm>

Normans Musical Instruments (Staffordshire-based company with some good prices on instruments):  
<https://www.normans.co.uk/>

Edexcel GCSE Music website: 2016 Specification

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

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) – Extensive song clips and tuition videos

[www.ultimate-guitar.com](http://www.ultimate-guitar.com) – Free guitar, bass and ukulele tabs

[www.8notes.com](http://www.8notes.com) – Free sheet music for a range of instruments, including piano/keyboard

[www.spotify.com](http://www.spotify.com) – Free music streaming service