

Music KS3: Year 8



Latin America

Pupils continue their cultural project by creating expressive and stylish performances of Latin America Music. This project prepares pupils for study in Year 9 by exploring rhythmic syncopation and more demanding notation.



**SUMMER
3:2**



The Blues – Part 1 (NEW for 2025/2026)

Pupils will explore and express creative opinions about music from historical points and other cultures. In studying Blues Music, pupils will build on their knowledge of world music from Year 7 and further explore the conventions and styles of this music. Utilising their newly acquired Band skills from the previous unit, pupils will now be able to perform a standard 12 bar blues sequence and improvise melodies using a blues scale.



**SUMMER
3:1**

Personal Development – I am in a Band!

Pupils will now utilise their newly acquired ukulele skills, in addition to drawing on any other instrumental skills, by collaborating to produce a band performance. We will learn each part and put it all together - drumming, chords, basslines, riffs and melody. Pupils take ownership of their personal development skills by collaborating with a group of other pupils and rehearse for an end point performance. Opportunities to compose their own song are also available!

**SPRING
2:2**



Ukulele

Pupils will start learning Ukulele playing techniques and posture, in addition to reading TAB notation (an alternative and deeper exploration of staff notation covered in year 7). Pupils learn to produce a chord accompaniment to popular songs, beginning to understand the role of chords and harmonic structure. Throughout the term, pupils add their use of voice and begin to self accompany to produce a song.



**SPRING
2:1**

Duets

This unit will revisit ensemble skills learnt in Year 7. Pupils will focus on their oracy and musical communication to understand the importance of their contribution and how their musical part fits and blends with another, ultimately increasing their awareness and responsibility to ensure the end point of a paired performance is delivered.

**AUTUMN
1:2**

OSTINATO & RIFFS

Pupils will begin their Year 8 journey with an exploration of musical devices; Riffs and Ostinato. This unit will recall rhythm and pitch notation and keyboard skill acquired throughout year 7. We will explore how riffs and ostinatos are used in Film, Pop and Classical Music to create effects. Pupils will reproduce performance versions of these pieces and further this exploration by composing and performing their own Riff and Ostinato pieces.



**AUTUMN
1:1**



OUR LEARNING JOURNEY