



Subject Music

Curriculum vision

The Music curriculum at Avonbourne Academies empowers students to appreciate the diversity of music as a performer, composer, and appraiser, giving them the confidence to articulate, develop, evaluate, and communicate their musical tastes and practical abilities on their own.

Music builds the skills of communication, collaboration, resilience, and physical control to develop strengths of character required in all aspects of life. We aim to develop the innate musical potential in all students through a diverse and stimulating knowledge rich and practical curriculum, fostering a lifelong love of learning, playing, and listening to music.

We use expert vocabulary in our knowledge rich curriculum to build and develop the ability to critically identify, describe and evaluate musical features and musical performance. Along with learning musical notation, this provides the foundations to creatively explore diverse genres, time periods and styles through solo and group performance and develop the ability to express emotion and ideas through composition.

Music students at Avonbourne Academies have inclusive and active music-making opportunities promoted across all years both in and out of the curriculum. Our extracurricular programme is ambitious and encourages the proficiency in ensemble performance and technology composition. Alongside our peripatetic lesson programme, these opportunities are designed to promote enthusiasm, passion and ambition and are a gateway to fostering and embedding these essential skills and qualities for moving forward with their musical understanding.

Curriculum Overview

Term 1	Autumn 1	Why this? Why now?	Autumn 2	Why this? Why now?
Year 7	7.1: Rhythm and Pulse	Students come to Avonbourne with a variety of musical understanding. This unit enables us to complete baseline assessments on musical knowledge and practical ability in relation to rhythm, developing their foundational knowledge around this musical element and an appreciation for analysing music created by themselves and others.	7.2: Singing and the Musical Elements	Students develop their knowledge of singing from primary school alongside an appreciation of the musical elements as a performer, composer, and appraiser. Within this unit we focus on dynamics, tempo, articulation, and tonality, alongside recalling the knowledge of rhythm from the previous topic.
Year 8	8.1: History of Popular Music	Now students have developed their knowledge of the musical elements and ability to appraise music as a listener, composer, and performer, we look at genres of music in more depth. Within this unit we focus on the structure, harmony, and melody of popular music from 1950s-1970s. Students learn to perform chords and riffs on the ukulele and apply devices from the focused musical elements when appraising.		
Year 9	9.1: Musicals	In year 9 we start to look at genres in more depth, applying the musical knowledge from year 7 and 8 to specific styles of music. This genre features within the GCSE Music specification and combines several harmonic, melodic and textural devices that recall knowledge from previous topics and enable students to build upon this understanding as an appraiser and performer by studying musicals across the ages.		



<p>Year 10</p>	<p>Component 1: Solo performance Component 2: Composition skills Component 3: 10.1 Discovering the musical elements</p>	<p>The GCSE Music course is split into three components that work together to give students a well-rounded music education. Students develop a more advanced understanding of performance knowledge on their chosen instrument by appreciating the importance of focused independent rehearsal alongside recalling the musical elements and their related devices. These are further understood through composition using their chosen instrument and creatively applying their knowledge of these devices.</p>		
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>Component 1: Solo performance Component 2: Free composition Component 3: AoS2 – Ensemble Music</p>	<p>Students prepare for their solo performance NEA on their chosen instrument with a focus on accuracy, technical control and expression as well as performing with a score. Students continue to develop their composition knowledge and apply it to their free composition NEA. Students also recall knowledge in relation to blues, jazz, chamber music and musicals and build upon this understanding of these genres as well as those looked at in AoS1 and apply this knowledge of musical devices within listening questions.</p>	<p>Component 1: Solo performance Component 2: Free composition Component 3: AoS3 – Film Music</p>	<p>Students prepare for their solo performance NEA on their chosen instrument with a focus on accuracy, technical control and expression as well as performing with a score. Students continue to develop their composition knowledge and apply it to their free composition NEA. Students also recall knowledge in relation to film music and learn how to critically analyse this music in relation to the musical elements and the impact these have on audience perception.</p>



Term 2	Spring 1	Why this? Why now?	Spring 2	Why this? Why now?
Year 7	7.3: Melodic Understanding: Hooks, Riffs and Ostinatos	Students start to develop their performance ability on the keyboard from the first unit, alongside building upon their knowledge of the musical elements. We focus on devices related to melody and music notation. By the end of this unit, students should have the knowledge to be able to read staff notation and perform a variety of melodic devices.		
Year 8	8.2: Song writing	After learning the knowledge of performing and appraising different styles of popular music, students are guided to understand how to compose music from this genre. Within this unit students are expected to create two chord progressions in different keys with an effective melody. This enables them to understand the purpose of chords within a piece of music and understand how chords, bass, and melody work together to create an effective piece of music.		
Year 9	9.2: Blues and Jazz	This unit centres around and in depth understanding of the harmonic, rhythmic, melodic and sonority features of jazz music by recapping understanding of blues music and applying devices understood in previous topics when appraising music from this genre. Students get to develop their practical understanding of the guitar through practical tasks, building upon knowledge established in year 8.		
Year 10	Component 1: Ensemble performance Component 2: Free composition Component 3: 10.2 AoS1: Forms and Devices	Now students have established the importance of independent rehearsal they then start to work on pieces in small ensembles and gain the knowledge needed to create an accurate, interpretative, and controlled performance. Students develop an understanding of composing within the 'Classical' genre by using stylistic features alongside a selection of musical devices when composing each element. This enhances their knowledge of the musical elements in relation to Western Classical music.	Component 1: Ensemble performance Component 2: Free composition Component 3: 10.2 AoS1: Forms and Devices	Students continue to develop their ensemble performances in relation to balance and interpretation. Within composition, students continue to develop their 'Classical' composition within a given form and structure. This gives them a chance to apply different devices within a piece to develop initial ideas. Students also start to research the style/genre they would like to compose in for their NEA. In listening and appraising students apply their knowledge from the previous two terms to specific genres within Baroque, Classical and Romantic music. They also study their set piece <i>Badinerie</i> , J. S. Bach and learn how to critically analyse music.
Year 11	Component 1: Solo performance Component 2: Free composition Component 3: Badinerie and Africa	Students prepare for their solo performance NEA on their chosen instrument with a focus on accuracy, technical control and expression as well as performing with a score. Students continue to develop their composition knowledge and apply it to their free composition NEA. Students also recall knowledge in relation to blues, jazz, chamber music and musicals and build upon this understanding of these genres as well as those looked at in AoS1 and apply this knowledge of musical devices within listening questions.	Component 1: Solo performance Component 2: Free composition Component 3: AoS4 – Popular Music	Students prepare for their solo performance NEA on their chosen instrument with a focus on accuracy, technical control and expression as well as performing with a score. Students continue to develop their composition knowledge and apply it to their free composition NEA. Students also recall knowledge in relation to popular music, as well as develop their ability to analyse their last set work; <i>Africa</i> . This is the genre of music students have the most prior knowledge of so is taught last due to this and its place in the chronology of the history of music.



Term 3	Summer 1	Why this? Why now?	Summer 2	Why this? Why now?
Year 7	7.4: Instruments of the orchestra	Now students have the knowledge to read notation, perform accurately and interpretatively, evaluate music using the musical elements. This unit introduces students to the instruments of the orchestra so they can aurally identify them and their sonority, an appreciation for this type of ensemble and create an ensemble performance.		
Year 8	8.3: Theme and Variation	This unit builds upon students' composition knowledge and enables them to apply it within a more creative way. After being given a theme students are taught how to add musical variation and create a unique piece of music. This enables students to work more independently to apply their knowledge from the last topic and compose using a variety of musical devices. It also introduces students to composing using music technology.		
Year 9	9.3: Film Music	This last unit of the KS3 curriculum recalls information in relation to all the musical elements as students analyse and compare devices within longer written answers based upon how the music makes an audience feel. Students also develop an understanding of how to play leitmotifs and create music to a film clip, applying all these devices practically when composing using music technology.		
Year 10	Component 1: Solo performance Component 2: Free composition Component 3: 10.3 AoS2: Ensemble Music	This term gives students the chance to develop upon their solo performance knowledge and learn a new piece with a focus on accuracy, technical control, and interpretation in relation to a score. Students will complete a recital evening this term where they complete their first official mock performance. Students begin their first section of their composition NEA in their chosen genre/style. Students also recall knowledge in relation to blues, jazz, and musicals from Y9 and build upon this understanding of these genres as well as those looked at in AoS1 and apply this knowledge of musical devices within listening questions.	Component 1: Solo performance Component 2: Free composition Component 3: 10.3 AoS2: Ensemble Music	Students begin to finalise their solo performance piece ready to record in Autumn Term of year 11. They are given their feedback from their mock performance and have 1:1 support to be able to rehearse areas that need improvement. Students continue with their composition NEA and complete the second section of their composition in their chosen genre/style. Students continue to recall knowledge in relation to blues, jazz and musicals and apply this knowledge within listening questions.
Year 11	Revision and Consolidation	Students have submitted their NEA in Spring 2. This time is given to recall knowledge from all areas of study, develop exam technique, and aural skills when listening and appraising music.		



Extracurricular Opportunities (competitions, associations, and clubs)

1. Vocal Group – a chance to learn to sing in 3- or 4-part harmony as an ensemble. This ensemble rehearses on Mondays after school with Miss Burrows.
2. Beginners orchestra - open to all students that want to develop their ensemble playing. This ensemble rehearses on a Wednesday after school with Miss Burrows and Mrs Shelley.
3. Music Technology and Production – open to all students to develop their understanding of production techniques using a variety of software. This club meets after school on a Thursday with Mrs Shelley.
4. Woodwind ensemble – open to all our woodwind players to create small ensemble pieces and develop intermediate performance skills. This group meet before school on a Thursday with Mrs Shelley.
5. String ensemble – open to all our string players to create small ensemble pieces and develop intermediate performance skills. This group meet on a Wednesday after school with Mr Defilet.
6. Independent rehearsal space – students have access to practice rooms at break and lunchtime to rehearse music performance pieces.
7. Rotary Young Musician of the Year – a competition for more advanced performers to compete against other young musicians across Dorset.
8. Creative Music Hub – An enrichment hub for musicians of all abilities to join a variety of clubs and ensembles from beginner brass groups to musical theatre clubs [Creative Music Hub - SoundStorm Music Education Agency \(soundstorm-music.org.uk\)](#)
9. Peripatetic music lessons – we offer instrumental and vocal lessons on a variety of instruments. Please speak the Head of Music for more information.
10. BSMA Carol Concert – This happens at the Pavilion each year and is a chance for students to come together in a collaborative vocal performance at Christmas time.
11. Partnerships with Soundstorm Music Hub and United Learning – each year we take part in external opportunities to showcase our students' work.

Revision Guides

1. [WJEC/Eduqas GCSE Music Student Book: Revised Edition : Richards, Jan: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)
2. [WJEC/Eduqas GCSE Music Revision Guide - Revised Edition: Amazon.co.uk: Richards, Jan: 9781912820788: Books](#)
3. [WJEC / Eduqas GCSE Music Listening Tests : Rhinegold Education: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)
4. [Rhinegold Education: WJEC/Eduqas GCSE Music Revision Guide : David Ventura: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)
5. [GCSE Music Exam Practice Workbook - for the Grade 9-1 Course \(with Audio CD & Answers\): ideal for catch-up and the 2022 and 2023 exams \(CGP GCSE Music 9-1 Revision\) : CGP Books, CGP Books: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)
6. [Step Up to GCSE Music: Get Up to Speed with Stave Notation and the Core Requirements in Just Two Weeks : Paul Terry: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)
7. [Rhinegold Education: GCSE Music Composition Workbook: Amazon.co.uk: Alan Charlton: 9781787601437: Books](#)

Academic Reading

1. [Music Theory: the Essential Guide \(Faber Edition\): Amazon.co.uk: Julia Winterson, Paul Harris: 9780571536320: Books](#)
2. [Classical Music: A Beginner's Guide \(Beginner's Guides\): Amazon.co.uk: Johnson, Julian: 8601200823677: Books](#)
3. [Analysing Popular Music: Image, Sound And Text : Machin, David: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

We also recommend that students listen to a variety of musical genres, especially at KS4. This enables them to develop their listening and aural knowledge as well as gain an appreciation of different musical styles and genres.