

Music

Curriculum Overview



Music Department

“With music, one’s whole future life is brightened. This is such a treasure in life that it helps us over many troubles and difficulties. Music is nourishment, a comforting elixir. Music multiplies all that is beautiful and of value in life.”

Zoltan Kodaly

Intent

We want to provide every student with the skills and knowledge to perform, create, and evaluate music in an engaging environment. Students follow a learning pathway which is ambitious, providing them with the cultural capital they need to succeed in life. They have many opportunities and are encouraged to extend their skills beyond the classroom. Above all **we want them to have fun in their Music lessons so that learning happens without their noticing.**

Implementation

The curriculum is designed carefully to ensure that knowledge and skills are instilled and built upon each year. Students perform music from a wide range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions. They learn to sing and use their voices and have the opportunity to develop their performing skills on a variety of instruments at each stage of their learning. They understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated through the inter-related dimensions: structure, sonority, dynamics, rhythm, meter, timbre, texture, pitch and tempo and use appropriate musical notations to create and compose music on their own and with others.

The Music Department’s aim is for all music lessons to be meaningful with students achieving clear learning outcomes. Students are set targets in relation to key skills depending on their ability. Progress is monitored throughout each project using radar grids demonstrating what is achieved in each lesson. Prior learning is checked, recalled and developed using relevant starter activities and plenaries.

Impact

The Music Department has a constant buzz about it - you can always hear music being performed. Students care about their learning and want to improve their homework, prepare a great audition for the next show or join the School Orchestra. Students achieve a broad range of musical knowledge and understanding at each point in their musical journey.

The uptake for instrumental lessons is very high and attendance at extra-curricular clubs is impressive. The new Junior Choir has thirty singers. The newly formed FSG Orchestra was to debut at the Spring Concert performing Vivaldi and Tchaikovsky this academic year.

Year 7

At FSG, music is viewed as a vitally important part of the broader curriculum. It provides opportunities for our students to share their emotions, solve problems, collaborate effectively and think outside the box. Through the study of a carefully designed curriculum students develop self-confidence, resilience and social skills through musical discourse.

Your musical journey will encompass the following key areas which are threaded through each project:

Performing

You will be encouraged to participate in solo and group performances using a wide range of classroom percussion, keyboards, voice and orchestral instruments where appropriate. Particular emphasis will be placed on performing parts within an ensemble. The Year 7 Vocal Concert is staged annually to celebrate the progress and achievements of your cohort. You will also have the opportunity to learn an instrument privately with one of the visiting instrumental teachers.

Composing

You will be introduced to different styles of music eg popular, classical and world and will create your own compositions working in pairs or in small groups. You will also be introduced to the latest music software packages such as Flat.io, BandLab and Reaper.

Appraising

The basic elements of music will be your starting point to enable you to understand how music is constructed. You will be encouraged to develop your critical listening skills enhancing your ability to identify instruments, different musical genres, structures and devices within music. Whatever your musical taste we will cover many styles from the great composers to the latest musical trends. There will even be the opportunity to analyse your own choice of music so your learning is personal to you.

Your performing and composing skills will be assessed through group and individual performances during each term and you will be able to develop your listening skills through regular tasks and tests.

The Music Department at FSG consists of two class teachers, a music technician plus a visiting team of instrumental and vocal tutors who are well qualified and between them, have a wealth of musical experience.

You may continue your musical journey through the school by choosing the subject as an option at both GCSE and A Level.

Year 8

“Knowledge brings about more knowledge” D Willingham

The Music curriculum at FSG has been designed to enable you to build upon the knowledge and skills you acquire in each year. In Year 7 you learnt how music is constructed and the vital key elements such as pitch, rhythm, structure and dynamics which come together in different contexts to create for example, a folk song, a symphonic piece or an African tribal dance. You have studied the mechanics of the voice, chosen and rehearsed your own song and gained the confidence to perform for your Teachers, Parents and Carers. You have demonstrated an understanding of basic musical notation and can compose simple rhythms using a variety of note values.

The knowledge and skills that you have developed in Year 7 will provide you with a solid musical foundation which will help you progress to the next stage of learning. You will continue to enhance your understanding of musical styles and genres, compose incorporating pitch as well as rhythm and be encouraged to learn how to play a variety of instruments such as piano, ukulele, bass guitar, drum kit and samba percussion. You will be given the opportunity to perform your music in the class setting or in the many concerts held throughout the year. Your progress in terms of performing, composing and appraising skills will be assessed regularly in lessons and homework tasks set in relation to the following schemes of work.

1 Samba

The first project in Year 8 will encourage you to study the complex origins and infectious rhythms of Samba, a music from Brazil which is celebrated today most notably in the famous Rio Carnival. You will learn which percussion instruments are used and how to play them. The syncopated rhythms, an important characteristic of this style, create a rich tapestry of sound. You will form Samba bands, compose your own rhythms, structure these appropriate to the style and perform your compositions in a carnival parade.

2 I Got the Blues

Some of you may have the “back to school” blues so here is an opportunity to channel your mood. The main task is to form a band and compose and perform your own piece in the blues style. You will learn about the history and context of the blues, including the influence that the slave trade and many musical cultures had on this style. You will play the twelve bar blues on a variety of instruments, and improvise using the notes of the blues scale. You will study how to compose a good tune and write your own melody using musical notation.

3 Fanfare and march

You will learn about different periods of music in Western culture and how both fanfare and march have been used in different contexts and cultures over the centuries. You will compose, perform and use music technology such as Flat.io and BandLab to produce a fully notated score for your own fanfare and march.

4 The Baroque and Ground Bass

You will study the characteristics of music composed during the Baroque period, specifically the Ground Bass: Pachelbel’s Canon in D is a good example of this. Throughout the Popular music era, bands have sampled elements of this famous piece to create songs which resonate with their audience. You will be given the task to compose a song with the same musical elements. Songwriting can be approached in various ways and your band will explore these and then choose which genre of pop to write in eg RnB, Hip Hop, Rock, Indie, Dance, Funk: The choice is yours!

Year 9

“Music can name the unnameable and communicate the unknowable.”
Leonard Bernstein

The Music curriculum at FSG has been designed to enable you to build upon the knowledge and skills you acquire each year. The learning in Year 9 will prepare you for the Eduqas Music GCSE course that you will begin studying in Year 10.

Assessment will continue in performing, composition and appraising in the same manner as at KS3 but now with a focus on individual performance and encouraging more participation in school concerts. You will be developing your skills through study of the following areas:

1 Music Theory

The ‘Step-Up to GCSE Music’ theory course runs alongside the following practical work and ensures that everyone has the theoretical skills such as understanding treble and bass notation to fully access the course ahead.

In each of the following projects, as well as practical elements, you will begin to analyse music in more depth helping you to develop your critical thinking skills.

2 Chords, vamps and accompaniments

This unit will give you the tools to start composing more extended pieces. You will use music technology to support your learning about variations, developing ideas and layering instruments. There will be plenty of practical opportunities for you to play your compositions. Styles covered in this term include pop, reggae and classical.

3 African music to samba

This very practical unit will make sure that you understand, and can use, quite complex rhythm notation. You will perform music from other cultures and create at least one composition in a genre of your choice.

4 Riffs to minimalism

Now we look in more detail at how composers develop ideas and the musical devices used to create an intended effect. You will improvise over repeated source material and build skills in both composition and performance. You will study film music, minimalism and fusion.

Year 10

The Eduqas Music GCSE has four areas of study and two set works. This study is arranged across the two years alongside performance and composition coursework.

Overall assessment for the GCSE is;

Performing 30%

Minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble.

This year you will perform three times, with a public performance in May.

Composing 30%

Two compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by the board. You will begin creating your free composition from term 4 onwards.

Appraising 40%

Listening exam on music from the areas of study in the Summer of year 11. This year you will cover three of the areas of study, as follows;

Area of study 1: Forms and Devices

Through listening to and playing music from the Western Classical Tradition (1650- 1910), you will identify the main features of binary, ternary, minuet and trio, rondo, variation and strophic forms.

This area of study includes one prepared extract 'Eine Kleine Nachtmusik,' Movement 3, Minuet and Trio: Mozart (1787)

Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble

You will develop understanding of sonority and texture, including instrumental and vocal groupings. Through listening to and performing chamber music, musical theatre, jazz and blues, learners will study texture.

Area of study 3: Film Music

You will develop an understanding of film music including the use of timbre, tone colour and dynamics for effect. Through listening to and performing examples of film music you will study how composers use musical elements appropriately to respond to a specific commission.



Year 11

The Eduqas Music GCSE has four areas of study and two set works. This study is arranged across the two years alongside performance and composition coursework.

Overall assessment for the GCSE is;

Performing 30%

Minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble.

The overall duration must be at least four minutes in total, with the ensemble piece being at least one minute.

The performance is allowed to be entirely ensemble if you wish.

- In terms 1 & 2 you will plan and rehearse for your solo and ensemble performances.
- In terms 3 & 4 you will record your final performances.

Composing 30%

Two compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by the board.

- In terms 2 to 4 you will create your second composition to a choice of four briefs set by the exam board.

Appraising 40%

Listening exam on music from the areas of study in the Summer of year 11.

- This year you will complete your studies with area of study 4 and revise all four areas for the Summer exam.

Area of study 4 : Popular Music

You will develop an understanding of popular music: rock and pop, bhangra and fusion (of different styles). Through listening to and performing examples of popular music you will learn how:

- instrumental and synthesised sound is used & how original music may be modified
- vocal sounds are used
- instruments and voices are combined
- sound is computer-generated and amplified
- software and samplers are utilised.

This area of study includes one prepared extract - 'Since You've Been Gone:' Rainbow

<https://folkestonegirls.musicfirst.co.uk/app/> You will be given your user name and password.

