

Music

“I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning” –Plato

The music department at The Holt School wants all students to have the opportunity to create and perform music through authentic musical experiences both inside and outside curriculum time. We want all students to develop a rich understanding of a diverse range of musical styles as well as master skills in the key areas of performing, composing and appraising.

What is studied at KS3

Year 7

- Year 7 concert- all students will perform as part of a mass choir as part of their first project in music lessons.
- Minibeast rap- exploring musical rhythms, by using word rhythms as a starting point.
- Music for dance- developing basic performance skills and melody composition using keyboards.
- Peter and the Wolf- learning about the instruments of the orchestra, and composing using different sounds.
- West African Drumming- Exploring rhythm further using West African drums.

Year 8

- Theme and Variations- learning to develop and extend melodies through a variety of musical features.
- Film Music- creating music to accompany a clip of action film using music technology.
- Minimalism- developing composition skills in a minimalist style.

Year 9

- Jazz and Blues- learning key features of blues and jazz styles and creating a piece of blues music.
- Pop Music- learning to play pop music using keyboards, guitars, ukuleles and voice and developing songwriting skills.
- Einaudi piano composition- composing for piano in the style of Einaudi, developing melody writing and notation skills.

What is studied at KS4

Edexcel GCSE Music

Areas of Study:

- Instrumental Music
- Music for Stage and Screen
- Fusions

- Vocal Music

Performance- learning to perform on any instrument or voice, developing skills with performing as a soloist and in an ensemble.

Composition- building on skills from KS3 to create music in a range of styles, culminating in individual compositions.

What is studied at KS5

AQA A level Music

Areas of Study:

- Baroque concerto
- Operas of Mozart
- Romantic piano music
- Pop music
- Jazz

Performance- preparing a 10 minute solo recital.

Composition- developing advanced techniques of composition and composing an individual composition in any style.