

“You have to, take a deep breath. and allow the music to flow through you.

Revel in it, allow yourself to awe.

When you play allow the music to break your heart with its beauty.”

— Kelly White

Music at Noel-Baker

Every child should have the opportunity to learn music, to learn the best that has been thought, performed and created in music. Music as a part of everyday life is a universal language that can unite all cultures. It can enhance your brain function and can have an impact on your emotions.

Key stage 3 Music

All students in Year 7, 8 and 9 receive one hour of music each week. The curriculum combines performing both as a soloist and as a member of an ensemble, composing, listening to and appraising music; every lesson has a practical focus. During the three years of key stage 3 students will study a wide range of musical styles from different traditions and parts of the world. Students are introduced to the contexts in which these different styles are performed and composed, exploring these styles through their own performances and composition work. We will be looking at a course that covers ABRSM graded examinations on the piano throughout key stage 3. If your child already takes examinations in either piano or another melodic instrument, then we will enable them to continue their learning on their instrument through music lessons at key stage 3. Support will be given to extend and develop their skills on their instrument in the classroom to aid their instrumental learning and examinations outside of school.

Year 7 Music

Unit 1: Solo musical performance, grade 1 piano; this unit is based around the study of developing piano skills at grade 1. Students will develop their skills in learning how to read and perform music. They will then further develop their skills by learning a piece of music from ABRSM grade 1 examination syllabus, list A. Through learning how to perform this piece of music students will develop their skills in reading music notation, learning key musical vocabulary, develop their aural skills and learn how to develop their understanding of different styles and genres of music. Through learning the music notation, key musical vocabulary students will also be learning the key areas from ABRSM grade 1 theory examination syllabus.

Unit 2: Solo musical performance, grade 1 piano; this unit is based around the further study of developing piano skills at grade 1. Students will develop their skills in learning how to read and perform music. They will then further develop their skills by learning a piece of music from ABRSM grade 1 examination syllabus, list B. Through learning how to perform this piece of music students will develop their skills in reading music notation, learning key musical vocabulary, develop their aural skills and learn how to develop their understanding of different styles and genres of music. Through learning the music notation, key musical vocabulary students will also be learning the key areas from ABRSM grade 1 theory examination syllabus.

Unit 3: Solo musical performance, grade 1 piano; this unit is based around the study of developing piano skills at grade 1. Students will develop their skills in learning how to read and perform music. They will then further develop their skills by learning a piece of music from ABRSM grade 1 examination syllabus, list C. Through learning how to perform this piece of music students will develop their skills in reading music notation, learning key musical vocabulary, develop their aural skills and learn how to develop their understanding of different styles and genres of music. Through learning the music notation, key musical vocabulary students will also be learning the key areas from ABRSM grade 1 theory examination syllabus. This unit of work will allow students to develop their composition skills in readiness for grade 1 ABRSM theory.

If students do well in throughout the academic year in both their practical skills on ABRSM Piano grade 1 and ABRSM Theory grade 1 they may have the opportunity to be entered for both examinations at the end of the academic year.

Year 8 Music

Unit 1: Solo musical performance, grade 1 piano; this unit is based around the study of developing piano skills at grade 1. Students will develop their skills in learning how to read and perform music. They will then further develop their skills by learning a piece of music from ABRSM grade 1 examination syllabus, list A. Through learning how to perform this piece of music students will develop their skills in reading music notation, learning key musical vocabulary, develop their aural skills and learn how to develop their understanding of different styles and genres of music. Through learning the music notation, key musical vocabulary students will also be learning the key areas from ABRSM grade 1 theory examination syllabus.

Unit 2: Solo musical performance, grade 1 piano; this unit is based around the further study of developing piano skills at grade 1. Students will develop their skills in learning how to read and perform music. They will then further develop their skills by learning a piece of music from ABRSM grade 1 examination syllabus, list B. Through learning how to perform this piece of music students will develop their skills in reading music notation, learning key musical vocabulary, develop their aural skills and learn how to develop their understanding of different styles and genres of music. Through learning the music notation, key musical vocabulary students will also be learning the key areas from ABRSM grade 1 theory examination syllabus.

Unit 3: Solo musical performance, grade 1 piano; this unit is based around the study of developing piano skills at grade 1. Students will develop their skills in learning how to read and perform music. They will then further develop their skills by learning a piece of music from ABRSM grade 1 examination syllabus, list C. Through learning how to perform this piece of music students will develop their skills in reading music notation, learning key musical vocabulary, develop their aural skills and learn how to develop their understanding of different styles and genres of music. Through learning the music notation, key musical vocabulary students will also be learning the key areas from ABRSM grade 1 theory examination syllabus. This unit of work will allow students to develop their composition skills in readiness for grade 1 ABRSM theory.

If students do well in throughout the academic year in both their practical skills on ABRSM Piano grade 1 and ABRSM Theory grade 1 they may have the opportunity to be entered for both examinations at the end of the academic year.

Year 9 Music

Unit 1: Find Your Voice, rock music; this unit will give students the opportunity to further develop their performing skills through working as an ensemble through looking at how a rock band works together from the lead singer, lead guitarist, the bass guitarist and the drummer. It will allow students to focus on how to develop good oral skills through learning how to perform with others in a rock band, learning about how to practice and what makes a good performance.

Unit 2: Solo musical performance, grade 1 piano; this unit is based around the study of developing piano skills at grade 1. Students will develop their skills in learning how to read and perform music. They will then further develop their skills by learning a piece of music from ABRSM grade 1 examination syllabus, list A. Through learning how to perform this piece of music students will develop their skills in reading music notation, learning key musical vocabulary, develop their aural skills and learn how to develop their understanding of different styles and genres of music. Through learning the music notation, key musical vocabulary students will also be learning the key areas from ABRSM grade 1 theory examination syllabus.

Unit 3: Solo musical performance, grade 1 piano; this unit is based around the further study of developing piano skills at grade 1. Students will develop their skills in learning how to read and perform music. They will then further develop their skills by learning a piece of music from ABRSM grade 1 examination syllabus, list B. Through learning how to perform this piece of music students will develop their skills in reading music notation, learning key musical vocabulary, develop their aural skills and learn how to develop their understanding of different styles and genres of music. Through learning the music notation, key musical vocabulary students will also be learning the key areas from ABRSM grade 1 theory examination syllabus.

Unit 4: Solo musical performance, grade 1 piano; this unit is based around the study of developing piano skills at grade 1. Students will develop their skills in learning how to read and perform music. They will then further develop their skills by learning a piece of music from ABRSM grade 1 examination syllabus, list C. Through learning how to perform this piece of music students will develop their skills in reading music notation, learning key musical vocabulary, develop their aural skills and learn how to develop their understanding of different styles and genres of music. Through learning the music notation, key musical vocabulary students will also be learning the key areas from ABRSM grade 1 theory examination syllabus. This unit of work will allow students to develop their composition skills in readiness for grade 1 ABRSM theory.

If students do well in throughout the academic year in both their practical skills on ABRSM Piano grade 1 and ABRSM Theory grade 1 they may have the opportunity to be entered for both examinations at the end of the academic year.

Key stage 4 Music

At key stage 4 we offer Music GCSE (OCR syllabus). Students receive three hours of lesson time in Year 10 and Year 11 each week.

The Music GCSE OCR syllabus consists of:

- An integrated portfolio which is worth 60 marks, 30% of total GCSE. This is where students will practice their chosen instrument or voice and perform pieces of music as a soloist. They will then go on to create a composition for their instrument or voice, this is their free composition.
- A practical component which is worth 60 marks, 30% of total GCSE. This is where students will practice, rehearse and perform as a member of an ensemble on their instrument or voice. They will then go on to create a composition to a set brief given by OCR in Year 11.
- The solo performance (integrated portfolio) combined with the ensemble performance (practical component) must last for at least 4 minutes in length with the ensemble performance lasting for at least one minute in length. The length of the performance time is the time the student performs within the piece of music.
- The free composition (integrated portfolio) and the composition to a set brief (practical component) combined together must last for at least three minutes in length.
- A listening examination which is worth 80 marks, lasting approximately 1 hour and 30 minute, 40% of total GCSE. The listening examination will consist of four areas of study: AoS2: The Concerto Through Time; AoS3: Rhythms of the World; AoS4: Film music; AoS5: Conventions of Pop.

AoS2; The Concerto Through Time: students will study the concerto and its development from 1650 to 1910; including the baroque concerto solo concerto; the baroque concerto grosso, the classical concerto and the romantic concerto.

AoS3: Rhythms of The World: students will study four geographical regions of the world looking in particular at the rhythmical roots of these regions; India and Punjab (the music of Indian Classical Music and Punjabi Bhangra music), Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East (the music of Greece, Palestine and Israeli), Africa (traditional African music), Central and South America (calypso and samba music).

AoS4:Film Music: students will study music that has been composed specifically for film and video games. Looking at the soundtrack for films and video games, including music that has been used in films from the Western Classical tradition.

AoS5: Conventions of Pop: students will study popular music from the 1950's to the present day, with a specific focus on: rock 'n' roll music from the 1950's and 1960's; rock anthems from the 1970's and 1980's; pop ballads of the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's; solo artists from the 1990's to the present day.

Music Enrichment activities

We offer instrumental lessons within the school day on the following instruments: electric and acoustic guitar; bass guitar; piano; keyboard; drum kit and voice. Students, if they wish, can take music examinations on these instruments, grade 5 and above can be used for university entry using UCAS points. If you or your child are interested in finding out more information about these lessons please speak to Miss Guest.

Noel-Baker Music Department offers the following extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities.

- Production rehearsals (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday after school in B19 these rehearsals run from September to December)
- Year 7 choir (Monday after school in A21, these sessions will run from January until July)
- Year 11 practical coursework (Friday after school in B19, these sessions will run from September until June)
- Year 11 listening examination revision (Friday after school in B19, these sessions will run from April until June)

The Music Department consists of two teaching rooms, one is equipped with 30 Apple Mac computers with music software on them, MIDI keyboards and 19 music keyboards, a piano and a drum kit. The other music room consists of 15 music keyboards and a piano. We also have four practice rooms that are equipped with an electric piano or keyboard, electric drum kit or drum kit, guitar, bass guitar and amplifiers.

Further studies and career progression in music

Options in music after GCSE can be A Level or BTEC which can then lead onto a degree in Music. Many universities and employers like to have students and employees who have varied post 16 qualifications, music can be favoured as it shows skills in time management, communication, team work, resilience, confidence, commitment, dedication and creativeness. There are a vast number of career options available in music, such as: performing, composing, producing, engineering, tour management, therapy, education, arenas and clubs, retail, journalism, PR, radio and TV, instrument repairs and instrument building.