

What will Year 7 students learn and how many lessons will they have each week?

Year 7 students will learn how to perform, compose, listen to and describe music with an increasing use of subject specific vocabulary throughout the course of their Music lessons. They will spend the majority of all lessons working with music in a practical way, using a range of percussive and melodic instruments to create and perform music, and develop listening skills around the elements of music. Students will analyse pieces of music from an aural perspective, as well as develop their understanding of a range of musical notations from many different backgrounds and styles of music. Students receive one hour of music lessons per week.

What will Year 7 students need to bring with them to lessons?

Students will need to bring good listening skills, a willingness to take creative risks, and a positive attitude to all Music lessons.

Regarding equipment, students will need a pen and a pencil, and if a student plays their own instrument it is recommended that they utilise this instrument in their music lessons.

Will Year 7 students have homework in this subject? How much?

Students will have homework in Music.

Over a half term, students should expect to complete a minimum of one hour and a half of homework in Music.

The content of homework will usually explore the content of the lessons to a greater degree, but may also focus on general musicianship and music theory.

How can I support my child at home with their learning in this subject?

In Year 7, our focus is on building performance and composition skill, as well as understanding the background and context behind a range of music.

It would be useful to help your child engage in a range of music from several backgrounds, and encourage them to play music on an instrument, if you have access to one. There are also several web-based music making applications, such as Bandlab, which allow students to create music at home, using just a computer.

What opportunities are there for further study and careers in this subject?

Music has a wide ranging history of style, genre and background, and these can be studied at greater depth at GCSE, A Level, Degree level, and beyond.

Singers and musicians are the most visible careers in the UK music industry, but there is an array of job opportunities for those with talent, tenacity and drive. You could carve out a career in performing, song writing, composing, live music entertainment, music education, music production, artist management, marketing and PR or music journalism.

Do I have to perform in Music lessons?

Yes, to some degree in most lessons, whether that is as a solo, or as part of an ensemble, and whether your audience is a partner, another group, the teacher, or the whole class. Performance is the way that we assess learning for many aspects of Music. You will rarely have an audience bigger than the class. More often than not, performances are used to share your learning as you would in any subject, except that work is practical for the most part at year 7 and 8

Do I need to be able to read music?

Having prior knowledge of western musical notation is incredibly useful, and you will find that many tasks are more easily accessible with some prior knowledge, however it is not a requirement to already know how to read music to be successful in the lessons. We will be using western notation for most lessons in some degree and students will develop their knowledge of it, as well as general musicianship and music theory, throughout the course of their music lessons.

Is all of the work practical based?

No, even though the subject is a primarily practical subject, you will also be expected to write about music that you have studied, discussing the use of musical elements and the context that the works were written in. You will learn about this in your lessons and you will also learn the key vocabulary used to describe different types of music in detail.