

Subject: Performing Arts (Music) Year 8 Curriculum Map 2024-2025

	Topics covered and core knowledge and skills	Links to careers	Resources Links
Half term 5	<p>Band Skills and Ensemble Performance</p> <p>This Year 8 scheme of work develops pupils' ensemble musicianship through a practical and collaborative approach to band performance, focusing on recreating <i>Skin</i> by Rag'n'Bone Man. Pupils will build on the musical foundations established in Year 7, with a continued emphasis on rhythm, pulse, harmony, and group coordination. This unit introduces a wider range of band instruments, including ukulele, bass guitar, acoustic guitar, and keyboard, giving pupils the opportunity to experience different musical roles within a class ensemble.</p> <p>The scheme begins with a recap of key musical elements such as chord structure, tempo, dynamics, and playing to a beat. Pupils will revisit basic chords and strumming patterns on the ukulele and guitar, while learning root note playing and simple grooves on the bass guitar, and chord voicings and rhythmic patterns on the keyboard.</p>	For careers, click here	Knowledge Organiser
Half term 6	<p>Instrumental workshops will run in rotation, allowing pupils to gain confidence on each instrument before specialising in one for the final performance. Sessions will also focus on band etiquette, listening to others while playing, and understanding the interplay between rhythm section and melody. Throughout the unit, pupils will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop instrument-specific skills, including hand technique, chord changing, finger placement, and simple improvisation. Learn to follow chord charts and lead sheets for pop-style arrangements. Explore layering and arrangement to understand how different parts combine to form a complete band sound. Build performance confidence through rehearsals, sectional practices, and whole-class run-throughs. <p>Special attention will be given to the structure and mood of <i>Skin</i>—a contemporary piece that encourages expressive playing, dynamic contrast, and emotional interpretation. Pupils will learn how to build intensity across the arrangement and respond musically to lyrics and phrasing.</p> <p>By the end of the scheme, pupils will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have developed performance skills on at least one of the following instruments: ukulele, bass guitar, guitar, or keyboard. Understand the role each instrument plays within a band arrangement. Be able to follow and contribute to a class ensemble performance with accuracy and musicality. Demonstrate confidence in timing, dynamics, and group coordination. Perform a class version of <i>Skin</i> by Rag'n'Bone Man that showcases the group's collaborative work, instrumental progress, and creative interpretation. 	For careers, click here	Knowledge Organiser

	<p>This unit builds essential skills for future musical pathways, fosters teamwork, and gives pupils the experience of being part of a real band, learning to listen, lead, and support each other musically.</p>		
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