

Subject: Performing Arts (Music) Year 9 Curriculum Map 2024-2025

	Topics covered and core knowledge and skills	Links to careers	Resources Links
Half term 5	<p>Four Chord Trick & Band Performance</p> <p>This Year 9 scheme of work takes ensemble performance to the next level by exploring the widely used concept of the Four Chord Trick in pop music. Using <i>Axis of Awesome's 4 Chord Song</i> as a central piece, pupils will examine how hundreds of popular songs share the same chord progression and use this understanding to create and perform multi-instrument band arrangements. This unit continues to develop skills on ukulele, guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, and vocals, reinforcing the importance of teamwork, musical timing, and stylistic awareness in ensemble settings.</p> <p>The scheme begins by introducing the I-V-vi-IV chord progression (commonly in C major: C-G-Am-F or in G major: G-D-Em-C). Pupils will explore how this chord sequence underpins countless hits across decades and genres, promoting a deeper understanding of functional harmony, song structure, and musical patterns.</p>	For careers, click here	Knowledge Organiser
Half term 6	<p>Through instrumental workshops and band rehearsals, pupils will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen chord fluency and accompaniment techniques on ukulele, guitar, and keyboard. Develop basslines based on root movement and rhythmic consistency on the bass guitar. Use voice confidently to sing familiar choruses and mash-up lyrics from the <i>Axis of Awesome</i> medley. Focus on musical timing, listening within a group, and arrangement to build a tight, cohesive performance. <p>In addition to learning the 4 Chord Song, pupils will have the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mash up their own 4-chord performance using snippets of different popular songs. Explore musical identity, style, and genre through collaborative arrangement. Take on musical roles such as band leader, rhythm section, or harmony support. <p>As part of their progression, pupils will also analyse how repetition, variation, and hooks contribute to the success of chart-topping music, and reflect on the role of simplicity in songwriting and production.</p> <p>By the end of the scheme, pupils will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the structure and musical significance of the Four Chord Trick. Be able to play and switch fluently between I-V-vi-IV chords on at least one instrument. Perform confidently in a small group or full class band setting, contributing to rhythm, harmony, or melody. Collaboratively arrange and present a group performance based on the <i>Axis of Awesome's 4 Chord Song</i> or their own creative medley. Appreciate the connections between songs and genres, developing broader musical literacy and stylistic awareness. 	For careers, click here	Knowledge Organiser

	<p>This unit fosters creativity, collaboration, and real-world musicianship while giving pupils insight into the techniques behind some of the most recognisable music of the last few decades.</p>		
--	---	--	--

