

## FITZHARRYS SCHOOL CURRICULUM SUMMARY

# MUSIC

At Fitzharrys School, the Music department aims to provide a rich, interesting and relevant music curriculum. It is our expectation that students have excellent experiences in classroom and extra-curricular music ensuring a well-rounded and insightful musical education. Students gain many benefits from actively engaging with music and as a subject it has been proven to develop pupils' competence as learners and increase their self-esteem. This subsequently can have a positive effect on achievement and progress in all other subject areas.

In the Music department we are fortunate to have a large practical performing space, a Music Technology suite (hosting Cubase elements 7 software), well-equipped practice rooms and a recording studio with the latest Pro Tools software.

### **KS3**

Music is a compulsory subject in Years 7, 8 and 9 with students having two hours of music per fortnight. Students cover a wide range of genres including classical, blues, hip-hop, Electronic Dance Music and have the opportunity to develop musical ensembles through group work. Over three years of fast-paced, exciting lessons, students will develop the key skills of performing, composing and listening.

#### Year 7

- 'Night and Day' - key musical elements
- Rhythm and Pulse
- Folk Music
- Form and Structure
- Instruments of the Orchestra
- 'Pictures at an Exhibition'

#### Year 8

- Reggae
- Variations
- African Musics
- Jazz and Blues
- Music Production
- Hooks and Riffs

#### Year 9

- Soundtracks
- Rock n' Roll
- Samba
- Fanfares
- Minimalism
- Popular Song

## **KS4/BTEC Music Practice**

### Year 10 & 11

Music is becoming a popular option at Key Stage 4. The BTEC in Music Practice offers a clear progression from Key Stage 3 and is geared towards the development of pupils' practical skills as musicians. They learn about different musical styles and genres and then have the opportunity to focus on these genres and skills to develop their own expertise. Pupils compose and perform music using music technology and instruments, and can also develop their skills in the recording studio.

The course weighting is as follows:

- Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles 30%
- Component 2: Music skills Development 30%
- Component 3: Responding to a Commercial Music brief 40%

BTEC programmes are designed to be structured as the world of work is and the BTEC in Music Practice demonstrates this. Component 3 is the culmination of pupils' work and is externally assessed, similarly to an exam, but the key difference is that it is practically based; it focuses on the practical music-making abilities that pupils have developed while on the course.

### **Extra-Curricular Opportunities**

We offer a range of extra-curricular activities including the Fitzharrys School Soul Band, Choir and Beginners Guitar Ensemble. Students have the opportunity to perform at a variety of different events and venues throughout the academic year. In recent years as well as our annual Whole School Musical production, Christmas concert and talent competition, our ensembles have performed in the Abingdon Music Festival.

### **Private Music Tuition**

A range of private instrumental lessons are taught during school hours. Guitar (both classical and electric), drum kit, voice, piano and keyboard are organised directly through the Music department. For further information and an application form please visit the [Letters Home](#) page on the Fitzharrys School website, or [email](#) Mr Adam.

For any other instrumental lessons including violin, cello, trumpet, trombone, flute, saxophone, clarinet and oboe, please email Oxfordshire Music Service directly: [music.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:music.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

At Fitzharrys we have a number of instruments that we can loan to students free of charge who are in receipt of music lessons.