

Music

Curriculum Intent

Our motto for Music is “Music for All”, music should be accessible for all students, regardless of their background. We want our Musicians at Cirencester Kingshill to be able to express themselves musically. They will be able to play a variety of instruments from a different musical family, they will be able to use Music Technology to access music making and arranging. They will also be able to listen to and comment on music using appropriate musical language.

How knowledge and skills build through Key Stage 3

Our curriculum is skills based. Enabling students to access a wide variety of instruments so they can find a method of expressing themselves musically, that suits them. The sequencing builds up as the years go on. For example, learning Ukuleles in Year 7, Guitars in Year 8 and band projects in Year 9. Or even learning how to use a basic DAW like Bandlab then working up to a more professional DAW in Year 9 being Cakewalk. This allows students to build up on the skills that they have previously learnt, but apply it differently to further help them to embed the knowledge and to allow them to express themselves. This also allows them to have greater understanding of a wide variety of instruments and technology, should they choose to take Music or Music Technology at Key Stage 4.

How it builds on the Key Stage 2 primary curriculum

Key Stage 2 is varied depending on which Primary School students have come from. So in music we use opportunities to check students previous learning at the starts of units of work. This allows those who have experience with certain topics to be “class experts” and encourages leadership skills.

Link to Key Stage 4 GCSE curriculum

1. [Link to Eduqas Music GCSE webpage](#)
2. [Link to NCFE Music Technology webpage](#)

Beyond Kingshill – Post 16 and careers

GCSE Music and Music Technology both offer different routes into the music industry and therefore the relevant courses.

Students taking the Vocational Music Technology route would find themselves looking towards a BTEC or T Level in Music technology with possible links to apprenticeships

Students taking GCSE Music will find themselves looking more towards A level music, or BTEC Music with a possible specialism in Performance or Composition.

Useful links/resources

www.musictheory.net

www.bandlab.com

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zbmct39>

www.oakacademy/music.co.uk

YEAR 7 Music

What topics will my child study?

1. Stomp – Rhythm and Percussion
2. Vocals – Warm ups, how the voice works, singing as a group, singing in harmony.
3. Music Technology – Using Bandlab to make music.
4. Song writing – Using Bandlab to learn how to make your own songs.
5. W African Drums – rhythm, percussion, world music.
6. Ukuleles – Reading tab and chord charts. Playing solo and as a group.

What knowledge will they have and what will they be able to do by the end of the year?

Performance – Students will be able to play on a variety of instruments either solo or in groups.

Composition – Students will understand how music is structured across a variety of genres. They will be able to use music technology to make this more accessible.

Analyses – Students will learn about different cultures of music and understand the context behind them. Students will learn about different musical vocabulary to help them describe and discuss music verbally and written.

How will they be assessed in Music?

- Performances will either be performed or recorded and then reflected on, either by the performers, in small groups or as a class.
- Compositions will be played out anonymously and then discussed as a class.

As a parent, how can I help my child in this subject?

- If they play or want to play an instrument, they need to practice. Little and often is always best 20 minutes every day/every other day.
- Encourage them to use Bandlab at home, it comes as an app on phones and as a browser application.
- Encourage them to listen to a wide variety of music.

What other opportunities do they have outside of the classroom?

Choir

Concert Band

Musical Production

Music Tech Club

Lunch Time Concert

Christmas Concert

X Factor Talent Show

YEAR 8 Music

What topics will my child study?

1. Lyric writing and rapping – How lyrics are made, and songs are structured.
2. Keyboard Skills – How to read the keyboard notes and play songs.
3. Music Technology EDM – Using computers to make and create EDM.
4. Guitar – How to read tab and chords, playing solo and in a group.
5. The Blues – Students will understand the history of The Blues, they will form groups and create a piece of Blues music using drums, guitar, keyboard, and bass.
6. Kingshill School Song Competition – Students will have 4 weeks to create a piece of music competing with the rest of the Year group. Fabulous prizes to be won!

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What other opportunities do they have outside of the classroom?

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Music Tech Club

Lunch Time Concert

Christmas Concert

X Factor Talent Show

YEAR 9 Music

What topics will my child study?

1. Musical Theatre – Students will learn about different productions of Musical Theatre and create their own songs.
2. Keyboard Skills and Notation – How to read music notation and play pieces on the keyboard.
3. Percussion – Students will learn how to play the drum kit and read Drum tab.
4. Music Technology – LoFi – Students will use computers to make and produce some LoFi.
5. 4 Chord Songs – Students will learn how to make 4-Chord songs and get in groups to try and make one.
6. Kingshill School Song Competition – Students will have 4 weeks to create a piece of music competing with the rest of the Year group. Fabulous prizes to be won!

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Key Stage 4

Music GCSE

The Music GCSE is split into 3 areas:

Performing, Composing and Appraising.

Performing

Students need to perform 2 pieces of music in Year 11. A solo and an ensemble. These need to be of Grade 3 standard, though students do not need to have taken these exams.

The minimum required length is 4 minutes for both performances combined.

Composing

Students need to compose 2 pieces of music in year 11. One is a free composition, so they can create whatever they like, the other is set by a brief from the exam board.

Students will need to understand different structures as well as control the various musical elements to demonstrate their composition skills.

Analyses

Students will sit a listening exam in year 11. For this they will listen to pieces of music and must answer questions about them.

We teach students the MAD TSHIRT method of music analyses with each letter standing for a different musical element.

There are questions about music notation on this exam as well.

NCFE Music Technology

The course is assessed by a synoptic piece of coursework that combines all the areas of study together. This is completed in Terms 3 and 4 of Year 11. This is worth 60% of the overall course.

The other 40% is an exam take in Year 11 which tests students' knowledge on the areas of study.

The course is graded using the BTEC grading system (Pass, Merit, Distinction)

The course is split into 5 different areas of study.

Music Business and Music Technology

The DAW

Music Listening

Sound Creation

Multi-Track Recording

Music Business and Music Technology

Students learn about the development of music technology, all the way from Vinyl through to Streaming Services.

Students also learn about the different business roles within the industry as well as their responsibilities.

Students learn about marketing and the release cycle of a song.

The Daw

Students learn how to use a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation)

We use Cakewalk as our DAW

Students learn how to use the different shortcuts, record VST instruments, import/export audio, recording techniques and much more.

Music Listening

Students learn how to write about music. They will learn about the various different musical elements and how to use them appropriately.

Sound Creation

Students learn how to make music, sound effects, foley sounds, ambient sounds and much more.

Students will use a variety of microphone and playing techniques for this.

Multi-Track Recording

Students will learn how to safely set up a studio.

Students will learn how to record other performers.

Students will learn how to layer up recordings.

Students will learn how to edit recordings to make them sound professional.