



Subject Spotlight

Music

"Music is a world within itself, and a language we all understand" Stevie Wonder, Sir Duke

Music allows us to express ourselves creatively; it is a valuable subject for all to study whether students arrive with us as active musician or are new to musical learning. We foster musicianship for all students through a wealth of engaging and creative music-making opportunities. We have an integrated curriculum approach to performing music (as a soloist or in an ensemble), composing music (using traditional and ICT resources) and listening to and appraising music. Students explore music from across the world with an appreciation of their own culture and heritage as well as the many influences that have shaped music across place and time. All students perform, compose, and study many different genres, styles and musical traditions, broadening their outlook on life and the world.

Curriculum Intent

Our music curriculum is inclusive, demanding and progressive. Throughout their musical learning at Teesdale, students develop the ability to perform with accuracy, fluency, and expression. They compose music for a range of purposes and audiences, and they study familiar and unfamiliar pieces of music looking at context, features and purpose.

Opportunities are built into every music lesson to recall and retrieve previous learning so that it can be embedded. This enables students to apply knowledge, skills, and musical understanding with increasing confidence. Students are encouraged to use their creativity to explore the ways in which music can impact us all, and they become equipped with the skills to evaluate their own music making and the music making of others.

We are proud of the extra-curricular opportunities our music department offers. Our peripatetic teaching team from Durham Music offer instrumental lessons in guitar, upper and lower strings and woodwind, with our freelance team offering singing, piano, keyboard and drum kit lessons to students, timetabled within the school day.

We offer musical enrichment for all. Our regular lunchtime rehearsals include band and choir; these inclusive groups allow our newest musicians and singers to join in music making from the very start of their journey. Our chamber choir and orchestra offer stretch and challenge for our more experienced and able musicians and singers, allowing them to further develop their ensemble skills.

Students also enjoy the use of our three dedicated music practice rooms at lunchtimes – these bookable spaces allow student-led rehearsals to take place, from soloists and duets to rock bands and recording sessions!

We offer performance opportunities for all students, with concerts in school each term, as well as regular musical theatre productions and our annual NELT Showcase at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music. Many of our musicians and singers also choose to participate in local ensembles, including Cream Tees youth folk band, Durham County Youth Orchestra, Barnard Castle Youth Choir, Teesdale Operatic Society, Barnard Castle Junior Band, National Youth Choir of Great Britain, Middleton in Teesdale Silver Band, *The Panthers* youth band... the opportunities in our community and further afield are vast.



Subject Spotlight

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

In Year 7, our students study **Musical Elements, Musical Notation and Musical Ensembles**, building a secure foundational knowledge of how music works, principals of reading and writing music, and developing performance and analytical skills. Year 8 students explore **Blues, Music Through Time and Hooks, Riffs, Loops and Samples** – each of these units offers opportunity to develop practical performance skills, more complex music theory and musical contexts. In Year 9, students investigate **Music for Film, TV and Video Games, Musical Fusions and Cover Versions and Remixes**, consolidating and extending the practical and theoretical work from Year 7 and 8 in a modern and relevant way. All units of the curriculum are delivered in our well-resourced specialist music space, allowing easy access to keyboards, ukuleles and guitars, alongside computers equipped with MuseScore, BandLab and Cubase software.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Students who choose music as an options subject follow the Eduqas GCSE Music course. The academic and ambitious curriculum builds upon the knowledge and understanding of music theory, building the skills needed for composing individual pieces of work. Both solo and ensemble performing techniques and skills are consolidated and developed, while the appraising curriculum covers a wide variety of genres and styles in a wider context.

The Western Classical Tradition forms the basis of **Area of Study 1: Musical Forms and Devices**, and the curriculum explores these forms and devices further in the other three areas of study. **Area of Study 2: Music for Ensemble** looks more closely at texture and sonority. **Area of Study 3: Film Music** and **Area of Study 4: Popular Music** explore contrasting styles and genres of music in context. Detailed analysis of two set works allows for deep exploration and rigorous academic study.

In Year 10, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of music theory, building the skills needed for composing. They will develop independent practice skills as they prepare for solo and ensemble performances, and they will study the Areas of Study 1, 2 and 3.

In Year 11, students will study Area of Study 4, and complete all aspects of their performing and composing non-examined assessments (60% of the final grade). They will complete detailed analysis of the set works and consolidate their knowledge and understanding of the Areas of Study studied in Year 10.

This coherent curriculum, designed by experienced music staff, allows learners to appreciate the diverse heritage of music, in order to promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural development. It prepares students well for further musical study at A Level or Level 3 BTEC.