

Music

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.”

From the National Curriculum for KS3 Music:

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. The music curriculum at Ark Soane seeks to engage students with this language in order to inspire a love of music and musicianship, so increasing their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they develop a critical engagement with this language, learning from the best in the musical canon in order to compose their own works.

Our curriculum enables students to achieve these goals by ensuring a secure foundation in music theory, and a rich knowledge of different styles of music. This theoretical knowledge enables meaningful engagement with the practical side of musicianship, by giving students the vocabulary to articulate and engage with complex musical ideas. With a secure base, students can then develop their vocal and instrumental skills by participating in music-making activities, including playing, improvising and composing.

Pupils in Year 7 and 8 begin with a focus on rhythm with Year 8 students playing djembes. During the spring terms pupils will play tuned percussion or keyboards. They will develop an understanding of melody, learning how melodies from a range of genres are constructed before composing their own.

During the first two terms of Year 9 there is a focus on music technology and composition. Pupils compose Electronic Dance Music tracks and soundtracks to film clips using industry standard Digital Audio Workstations and MIDI sequencer software applications.

KS4 pupils will have the option to study the Eduqas GCSE music course. This course encourages an integrated approach to the three distinct disciplines of performing, composing and appraising through four interrelated areas of study. The four areas of study, Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensembles, Film Music and Popular Music, are designed to develop knowledge and understanding of music through a variety of genres and styles in a wider context.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 7	Stomp and Sing	The Power of Pentatonic	Four Chord Songs
Year 8	West African Music	Baroque Remix	The Blues
Year 9	Electronic Dance Music	Film Music	Songs for a Better World

Year 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of study - Musical Forms and Devices • Set Work 1. • Sequencing Skills <p>Ensemble work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of Study - Popular Music • Set Work 2 • Composition Skills <p>Ensemble work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of Study - Music for Ensembles • Free Composition <p>Solo instrumental/vocal work</p>
Year 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of study – Film Music • Composing to a set brief • Ensemble recordings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set works • Solo instrumental/vocal recordings <p>1. Free composition</p>	<p>2.</p>