

Music – Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact

Intent

In Music, our key principle is to provide all pupils with the skills and knowledge to harbour a lifelong love of the subject. All pupils at Kingsdale are entitled to high-quality and engaging Music lessons and an exciting and varied array of musical opportunities. With these two aspects embedded, we provide Music students with the ideal toolkit to excel at GCSE, A-level and beyond.

Implementation

Our curriculum is primarily split into three different strands from KS3 to A-level – performing, composing, and listening. All key concepts are taught across these three strands so that knowledge is embedded in a variety of ways. Pupils are able to demonstrate meaning of words both literally and musically.

Schemes of work are sequenced in a logical manner for KS3. The initial scheme of work is centred around basic instrumental performing and composing and the embedding of musical keywords for listening and analysis. From here, pupils in KS3 are taken on a musical journey, learning about both Western musical styles and other styles from around the world. During each topic, pupils will learn the key musical concepts of each topic, and these are sequenced so that knowledge is both built upon and revised in a linear manner. Similarly, topics studied at KS3 are directly linked to the examinations at KS4 and A-level – all styles that are within those specifications are at first covered by pupils in a basic level at KS3.

At KS4 and KS5, we continue to support students in forming personal and meaningful relationships with both music and music technology. We encourage students to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

Each half-termly scheme of work in all Key Stages features a performance assessment, composition assessment, and a listening test. For instance, when studying Reggae in Year 7, pupils will at first learn to play a reggae piece, then to compose with the key features of reggae (slow tempo, offbeat chords) and the complete a listening exam to test knowledge of the key features. All practical elements are filmed so that pupils can watch their own performances back to self and peer assess.

All lessons are taught using the Kingsdale lesson model and Rosenshine's principles. The 'I do, we do, you do' concept is embedded throughout our schemes of work.

Impact

The impact of our curriculum is regularly reviewed through consultation with internal and external parties, such as the SSLP learning group. Departmental meetings consistently analyse the impact our lessons are having on pupils and we regularly tweak our lessons and schemes of work to meet the demands of our stakeholders.

We have a high uptake of pupils for both GCSE and A-level and this reflects the high quality of provision we provide pupils during their early years at Kingsdale. We consistently achieve outstanding results year-on-year at GCSE and A-level and the consequence of this is that we can send pupils to esteemed universities and conservatoires to continue their musical education. Similarly, we are an exam centre for instrumental and vocal exams and again, results are consistently superb.

Our hugely successful scholarship programme with the department enables pupils of disparate backgrounds and experiences to engage in music-making in an individual and extra-curricular sense in addition to their classroom lessons. Students are released from other curriculum lessons to attend instrumental/vocal lessons and this embodies how highly the school values our subject. Our department offers over 30 different musical ensembles for pupils to perform with, varying from beginner groups to expert level. We also organise over 30 concerts within school per academic year, giving every ensemble and all pupils a chance to perform both as a group and individually. We professionally record and film all concerts so that our excellence can be shared

with as many members of our community and the wider world as possible. Further outreach by the department can be evidenced with our concerts at other schools, local churches, music venues in London and the wider UK (such as the Royal Albert Hall) and our trips of a lifetime to Namibia and Brazil.

Overall, it is evident that music plays an important role in the life and ethos of the school.