



Department Staffing

Ben Judson – Head of Music
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James Stevenson – Music Teacher
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Peripatetic Staff:

Valerie Vet – Vocals & Piano Teacher
Leigh Costanza – Drums/Percussion Teacher
Jason Page – Guitar/Bass Teacher
Jay Riley – Piano/Saxophone Teacher
James Topp – Brass Teacher
Lesley Wragg – Violin Teacher
Sarah Bourne-Taylor – Cello Teacher
Helen Payne – Woodwind Teacher



Our Aims

Within the Music Faculty at North Oxfordshire Academy we inspire a passion for creativity, performance, and enjoyment of a range of musical styles through engaging lessons, a wealth of extracurricular activities and challenging home learning tasks. Students are encouraged to reach their full potential and to develop skills in performance, composition/arrangement and listening & analysing.

Department Information

The Music department currently consists of two members of full time teaching staff and eight peripatetic music tutors. Music is taught in two dedicated classrooms, which are supplemented by three practice rooms and a recording studio that incorporates separate live and control rooms. Each classroom is fitted with a large touch screen TV/data projector and a suite of Apple iMac computers running Logic Express 9 and GarageBand software. We have numerous extra-curricular activities available to students of all ages, including an elite choir, Samba/Dance band, Funk band and weekly 'Live Lounge' style concerts held during Friday lunchtimes. In addition, the department is open to students who wish to form bands, practice their instrument or create music using the iMacs most lunchtimes and after school. We run two concerts and one gig-style event each year, as well as work with Drama in putting on an annual school Musical. Both the Samba band and the choir have performed at various events in Banbury and further afield.

Key Stage 3 – Music

At North Oxfordshire Academy we aim to make the study of Music enjoyable and purposeful for all pupils. Throughout Years 8 & 9, students have two music lessons per fortnight for the whole year. All lessons are delivered by our dedicated specialist music teachers. Year 7 students are on a rotation between Drama and Art, and will have three music lessons a fortnight for a quarter of the year.

Over the course of Key Stage 3 pupils cover a range of subjects, genres and time periods in their Music lessons, ranging from traditional folk song to contemporary Pop music, orchestral film music, Samba, Techno, Reggae & Rap. Technology is utilised as both a tool for developing performance skills and creating music.

Students in Key Stage 3 develop their skills in a range of areas relating to Music including performance, composition/arrangement, listening & analysing. If they choose to study Music or Music Technology in Year 10 students will enter Key Stage 4 with a heightened understanding of the fundamental elements of music, an appreciation for musical forms they had perhaps not otherwise been exposed to, and an ability to perform a musical instrument to at least a rudimentary level.

Key Stage 3 Programme of Study (Timeline)

Year	Project	Focus	Brief description
7	1	Elements of Music & Soundscape Composition	Students will learn about the fundamental elements that make up music, as well as develop a knowledge of basic notation. Students will also learn the key concepts behind film music and practise the use of these concepts using GarageBand on an iMac. Students will then create their own movie soundtracks for a selected movie clip using these techniques and exploit the elements of music through their work.

	2	Rap	Students will learn about the history of African American music, and the birth of Hip Hop. Students will develop an understanding of how the Rap has been used as a tool for positive social change. They will create their own backing tracks using simple rhythmic and melodic parts on live instruments and compose politically charged lyrics, ending with a performance to the class.
8	1	Reggae	Students will learn about the history of Reggae music and the musical elements of the style. They will develop performance and musical literacy skills by learning how to play a Reggae song using a score and modern chord sheet.
	2	Samba / Techno	Students will learn the key features, historical context and concepts behind the South American dance style of Samba music, performing a piece as part of a whole class ensemble. Students will then be exposed to forms of electronic dance music and use their Samba performance skills to create an original Techno composition using GarageBand.
	3	Popular Music – 4 Chords Pt 1.	Students will be exposed to a very wide range of popular music genres, study the development of styles, and learn how they have influenced and been influenced by each other. They will learn how to perform the ‘4 Chords’ chord progression, used in an overwhelming number of pop songs, and create their own ‘mashups’ using this progression within small ensembles. The project seeks to develop performance and arrangement skills, as well as a wider understanding of a range of popular musical styles.
	4	Popular Music – 4 Chords Pt 2.	Following on from the previous term’s work, students will continue to study a very wide range of popular music genres, in order to understand the key differences between styles. They will continue to prepare their own 4 Chords ‘mashups’ within small ensembles, leading up to a performance at the end of the term.
	5	Western Art Music	Students will study a number of key pieces that have made an impact on the music we listen to today. The discover of the elements of music and features pioneered by composers such as Vivaldi & Beethoven will be explored in a composition project using orchestral instrumentation in GarageBand.

	6	Blues	Students will learn about the history of Blues music, 12 bar blues structure, improvisation and how to perform a standard blues song. They will then form bands and compose their own blues song before performing the original.
9	1	Band Skills	Students will develop a richer understanding of how to learn, practice and perform a song within small ensembles. All groups will learn the same song, which is set by the class teacher each term. Students learn the value of rehearsing to achieve results, work well and compromise with their peers, as well as grow as performing musicians.
	2	Film & Leitmotif	Building on work completed in Year 7, students will study several works created for film and look at how sound effects are used in conjunction with a score to enhance the action in a scene. They will create an original soundtrack to a movie trailer, composing an appropriate leitmotif and sourcing sound effects for the clip using GarageBand.
	3	Funk	Students will develop performance skills in this unit by learning a classic Funk piece on a variety of instruments. Syncopation and structure will be a focus and the unit will culminate in a performance at the end of the project.
	4	Dance Music Production	Students will have the opportunity to experience some of the content from the Level 2 Music Technology qualification in this unit by using a DAW to produce original Dance Music. They will explore rhythm, melody and harmony, as well as structure and texture.
	5	Folk Songs	Students will study several songs from different periods within the Folk music tradition. They will develop an understanding of idiomatic writing, form and the art of telling a story through song. In addition, they will compose original lyrics for a traditional Folk melody based on the theme of 'Banbury'.
	6	Jazz	Building on skills learned during the previous Funk unit, students will study the development of different forms of Jazz and learn how to play a Jazz standard as part of a large ensemble.

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Go4Schools. Our staff within the faculty set homework for students using this resource. Students are given a weekly Memory Platform test, based on knowledge acquired during previous lessons and through the Knowledge Organisers provided by teachers at the start of each project.

Music / Music Technology Key Stage 4

Options & Subject Choices

In Years 10 and 11 students can focus and develop their musical interests by selecting either GCSE Music or NCFE Level 2 Technical Award in Music Technology qualifications.

Key Stage 4 – GCSE Music

While many students display some level of musical talent throughout Key Stage 3, it takes a great amount of skill and knowledge to become a musician. In the GCSE Music course, students learn skills in composition, performance and musical analysis, as well as being exposed to a wider range of musical styles than they have studied previously in Key Stage 3.

At present, in Key Stage 4 Music we teach the Edexcel 9-1 GCSE Music qualification. Throughout the course of the subject, students will submit two compositions and two performances, as well as prepare for an examination based on eight “set works”, the subject of the exam.

During Year 10, students will complete the coursework element of the course for submission on a 9-1 grading basis. During Year 11, students will be given the opportunity to resubmit their coursework to improve their grade, as well as revising for their final exam.

Key Stage 4 – GCSE Music – Programme of study (Timeline)

Year	Term	Focus	Brief Description
10	1	Ensemble performance	Students will work in groups to create an appropriate ensemble performance. When submitted, this will be assessed and feedback given.
	2	Composition and Set Works	Students will be introduced to the first of the set works and attempt to create a composition in its style.

	3	Solo performance	Students will work individually/with the teacher to create an appropriate solo performance. When submitted, this will be assessed and feedback given.
	4	Composition and Set Works	Students will be introduced to the second of the set works and attempt to create a composition in its style.
	5	Composition and Set Works	Students will be introduced to the third of the set works and attempt to create a composition in its style.
	6	Composition and Set Works	Students will be introduced to the fourth of the set works and attempt to create a composition in its style.
11	1 -6	Composition and Set Works	<p>Students will continue working through the set works and choose two styles in which to submit compositions.</p> <p>Students will spend the majority of lesson time learning the remaining content for the written exam and preparing for this assessment.</p> <p>Students may resubmit coursework from Year 10.</p>

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Go4Schools and staff within the faculty set homework regularly for students using this resource. Students will be set homework periodically to support them with their learning. This will range from listening assignments, research assignments and completing missed written work from a lesson. Students are expected to catch up with any practical work in the Music department in their own time.

Key Stage 4 – Music Technology

In our modern, technologically focused world, an understanding of music technology is a prerequisite for anyone wishing to turn their musical talent into a career, be that as a DJ, producer, engineer, composer or teacher. This option subject covers many of the essential skills required to progress towards one of these career goals, as well as providing opportunities for engaged, creative learning.

At present, in Key Stage 4 music technology we teach the NCFE Level 2 Technical Award in Music Technology. This qualification is aimed at 14-16 year olds with an interest in music production and recording and is designed to sit alongside GCSEs in the Key Stage 4 curriculum. It is a vocational qualification equivalent to GCSE at grades A*-C. Throughout the course of the subject, students will learn how to correctly use a recording studio and all the equipment within, how to critically evaluate

and produce electronic music, and create instructional guides on how to use Logic Express, an industry standard music production software.

During Year 10, students will complete three units of coursework for submission and assessment on a No Pass/Pass/Merit/Distinction basis. One further unit will be completed in Year 11, as well as two exams that aim to test the knowledge and skills built up by students throughout the course. The four units of coursework count towards 60% of the final grade and the exams make up the remaining 40%.

Key Stage 4 – Music Technology – Programme of study (Timeline)

Year	Term	Focus	Brief Description
10	1	Unit 1 – Using a DAW	This unit will allow students to develop skills in operating a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) creatively using audio, MIDI, hardware and editing tools.
	2	Unit 1 – Using a DAW	Learners will create a musical project in response to a brief, reflecting industry skills, and evaluate the outcome.
	3	Unit 2 – Creating Music	Students will develop skills in analysing the stylistic elements of a wide range of styles of music.
	4	Unit 2 – Creating Music	Students will develop a piece of music based on a specific style. will engage in a review of technical and creative processes.
	5	Unit 3 – Multi-Track Recording	Students will plan and undertake a recording session for a given scenario, e.g. record a demo for a local band.
	6	Unit 3 – Multi-Track Recording	Students will create a mixdown of their recording and review the final product.
11	1	Unit 4 – Sound Creation	Students will explore a range of forms of sound creation, from Foley to synthesis and apply their knowledge to a given brief.
	2	Unit 4 – Sound Creation	Students will create and review their own original sound creation project.
	3	Exam	Students will prepare for and undertake both their knowledge and practical exams.

	4 - 5	Coursework development & Exam re-sits	Students will complete and resubmit any missing work for units 1, 2, 3 & 4, to improve their overall grade and re-sit their exams (if necessary).
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Home Learning

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Music / Music Technology Key Stage 5

NOA Music offer courses for both Music and Music Technology in the 6th Form, simultaneously providing students with the knowledge required to study at University and developing their practical skills for a career in the industry.

Music and Music Technology serve to compliment many other qualifications through nurturing creativity, independence, teamwork, as well as IT, analytical and critical skills. For these reasons, they are both highly sought after qualifications for the workplace and courses in Higher Education. Students from NOA have gone on to study Music/ Music Technology at university every year for the past 5 years.

BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Music (Edexcel)

The Music course is for students interested in a career in music. The BTEC Level 3 Music Subsidiary Diploma specification enables students to gain an experience of a wide range of musical skills. Students will develop performance skills (solo and ensemble), a knowledge and understanding of compositional processes, a knowledge of popular music history, and skills in organising and promoting a live music event.

The course is split into six units. There are two compulsory units and 4 that can be chosen by the Music group each year. The units are internally assessed and moderated by an external assessor. Units being completed by this year's cohort include:

- UNIT 4 – Aural Listening Skills
- UNIT 7 – Composing Music
- UNIT 23 – Music Performance Techniques
- UNIT 24 – Music Project
- UNIT 30 – Popular Music in Practice
- UNIT 40 – Ensemble Performance Skills

Studying the course will involve a range of teaching and learning activities including practical workshops, seminars, lectures and critical listening sessions. The course will include visits from speakers in the industry as well as trips to universities and other related institutions.

In combination with other vocational courses and A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Music (Performing) can lead to study at university on a range of courses. A degree in Music could lead to careers in teaching, professional musician, theatre and arts related careers, music industry management, music therapy and many more.

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Nationals/Music/2010/Specification/9781446934258_BTEC_Nats_L3_MMTech_Iss5.pdf

A Level Music Technology (Edexcel)

The Music Technology course is for students interested in a career in music production. It is broken up into 4 units that cover the full spectrum of basic skills needed to progress to a higher level of study or to work in one of the many areas of music production. Students will study a range of skills relating to music production, including: Live performance, Ensemble multi-track audio recording, Audio and MIDI sequencing. These skills will be assessed in three pieces of course work each year alongside a listening exam.

The course is split into four units. There are two compulsory units for the AS and two units for the complete A-Level. The units are all externally assessed through annual exams.

- UNIT 1 – Portfolio 1 (MIDI sequence, audio recording, MIDI/audio mix)
- UNIT 2 – Listening & Analysing Exam
- UNIT 3 – Portfolio 2 (MIDI sequence, audio recording, composition)
- UNIT 4 – Listening & Analysing Exam

Studying the course will involve a range of teaching and learning activities including practical workshops, seminars, lectures and critical listening sessions. The course will include visits from speakers in the industry as well as trips to universities and other related institutions.

In combination with other A levels or vocational courses, Music Technology A level can lead to study at university on a range of courses. A degree in Music Technology or Music could lead to careers in studio engineering & production, composition (e.g. for video games or film), teaching, live sound engineering.

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/music/tech/Pages/default.aspx>

Home Learning & Independent Study Expectations

It is an expectation that students complete upwards of 3 hours home learning per week. This will involve research and exam preparation. Students will also have one study period allocated specifically to their course. This is to be treated as if it were another lesson, as students will be

required to sign in. Truancy from this designated study period will be dealt with in the same way as truancy for a timetabled lesson.

What will you need to study these courses at NOA 6th Form?

To study BTEC Music Level 3 or A Level Music Technology you will need 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE, or equivalent, including at least a B grade at GCSE Music or Distinction for BTEC Level 2 Performing Arts (Music) / NCFE Level 2 Technical Award in Music Technology and a C grade in English.