



The Henrietta Barnett School

Music



Authenticity - Kindness - Curiosity
Connection - Endeavour

www.hbschool.org.uk

The music department at HBS aims to enable every student to develop their musical potential whatever their ability when they join the school. We focus on helping each pupil develop their musical skills, understanding and knowledge through a vibrant and eclectic curriculum that is practically based and that is both accessible and challenging to all. Throughout the key stages, lessons focus on three core areas of study:

- Performing
- Composing and Arranging
- Listening and Appraising.

Year 7

In Year 7, students will engage in whole class part singing, whole class instrumental performance, listening and appraising and small ensemble composition work. The above areas of study act as the basis for ongoing progression through the schemes of work. We encourage all students to use both their own instruments which they can bring from home and classroom instruments which are available to them each lesson.

In their performing work, we encourage students to aim for fluency, ensemble awareness and a sense of style. In creative tasks they manipulate elements such as structure, texture, timbre, and use harmonic devices to create their pieces. In their group work, they have opportunities to listen and appraise their pieces in order to improve and refine them. Formal Listening and Appraising work will be linked to the practical projects.

Through all three areas of study students expand their knowledge and understanding of a range of styles from different traditions as well as increasing their musical vocabulary.

ICT is used to complement this work with sequencing (Logic Express) and notation (Sibelius) software enabling the students to take a more personalised approach to their composing work.

There is continual assessment throughout the course which will take many forms, e.g. verbal feedback from staff to students, self- and peer- appraisal and more formalised feedback sheets to students. Performances are regularly recorded either audio or video, by the classroom teachers and made available to students via google classroom.

The Bernard Hooton Interhouse Music Festival in the Summer Term gives every student at HBS the opportunity to work at both small group pieces and a whole class piece to perform to her year group. This competition is judged by an external adjudicator and is an extremely enjoyable experience for all participants!

Students are warmly encouraged to extend their musical experience by taking up various opportunities within the extra-curricular provision at the school. Most of our extra-curricular music ensembles are open to students of all abilities and no audition is required. The more advanced ensembles eg. Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and Chamber choir do require an audition.

Year 8

The Year 8 music curriculum builds on everything learnt in Year 7 through the same three areas of study. The units of work aim to further develop the skills of listening, composing and performing but with a more advanced level of music making which we ensure will challenge students of all abilities.

Continuous assessment which begins in Year 7 continues throughout the year and culminates in the Bernard Hooton Interhouse Music Festival in the Summer Term giving every student the opportunity to work at both a small group piece and a whole class piece to perform to their year group.

In Year 8 topics will include work on various scales and modes, use of ostinato, composing for film and theatre and Klezmer music.

Year 9

In Year 9, whole class singing is developed even further to include a cappella singing and more advanced composition in small ensemble settings.

ICT is used to complement this work with sequencing (Logic Express) and notation (Sibelius) software enabling the students to take a more personalised approach to their creative work.

In Year 9 topics will include work on a cappella singing, song writing and projects connected with the origins of western popular music in the USA, such as slave songs, spirituals and the Blues. Units of work also cover Blues music, early Rock'n'Roll and Jazz as well as an exploration of the Baroque technique of Ground Bass.

Year 10

GCSE Music (Year 1)

GCSE Music is a natural progression for students who wish to further develop their musical skills. The Edexcel Music course affords our pupils a wide range of opportunities to explore a wide variety of musical genres through listening and appraising as well as developing their individual composition skills with the coursework element of the course. They will also gain many opportunities to perform in ensembles with their peers and participate in concerts and other performing forums.

The course is divided into 3 units: Performing; Composing/Arranging; Listening and Appraising.

As performers students develop both their solo and ensemble skills. They will take part in workshop sessions and will have opportunities to record (and re-record) performances at various stages throughout the course enabling them to listen back to themselves, receive teacher feedback and improve, finally selecting their best ones for coursework submission in year 11.

In the Composition and Arrangement part of the course they will learn skills relevant to a broad range of styles.

Students are required to submit two compositions as their final pieces of coursework as follows:

1. Learner Set Brief - is chosen by the student themselves in pursuit of an area of particular interest or passion
2. Exam Set brief - this is set by the exam board and released to the school at the beginning of September of Year 11. (Second year of the course).

They will complete more compositions than the two required by the syllabus and so will be able to select their best ones for submission in Year 11.

In the Listening and Appraising part of the course students cover four Areas of Study, and in each of these there will be 2 set works via which they will study in detail. The four Areas of Study are as follows:

1. Instrumental Music 1700-1820
2. Vocal Music,
3. Music for Stage and Screen
4. Fusions.

Works studied range from the Purcell aria "Music for a While" to "Release" by Afro Celt Sound system to "Defying Gravity" from Wicked. The examination at the end of the course will be based on these set works.

All of the GCSE Music student's musical experiences contribute to their ongoing development as musicians. We encourage them to participate in a wide range of musical opportunities, especially as are offered by the extra-curricular musical life of the school.

Year 11

Students continue to work as performers, composers and develop their listening skills.

Performing - towards the end of the Autumn Term of Year 11 each student will be required to perform their solo piece which is recorded by a member of staff. This is followed in the Spring term by the recording of the ensemble piece. Both these recordings must take place in school with a member of the music department teaching staff. These two components comprise 30% of the overall course grade.

Composition - at the beginning of September in Year 11, the Exam Set brief Composition is launched and completed by students as they further develop their skills as composers.

Throughout the GCSE journey, we encourage all students to explore new repertoire as listeners and to make connections between what they learn in their instrumental lessons, perform in ensembles and what they listen to.

Year 12/13

OCR A Level Music

The current year 12 cohort will be the final group to take the OCR Music A level course. From September 2027, this exam board will no longer offer A level provision and HBS music department will be undertaking a new exam board which has yet to be confirmed. The current Year 12 will take the exam in the summer of 2028.

As a general point, students who choose to study Music A level Music develop their skills as performers and composers to advanced levels of proficiency as well as further their exploration of musical history, genre and style through an academic approach to both analysis and musicology. This course can act as a springboard to study Music at university or conservatoire level, or simply enable students to continue with a subject which they love and which is respected by universities. The course is challenging and extremely engaging with many opportunities in all three of the disciplines in music making.

The following description of the course content is based on the OCR Exam board which will be delivered in this academic year with the final exam taken in the summer of 2028.

There are again three elements to the course, Performing, Composing and Listening and Appraising.

Performing - students give a short recital in the second year of the course on an instrument or choice of instruments of their choice which is marked externally via an audio visual recording.

Composing - students complete one "free" composition (Learner Set Brief) in year 12 and one to an Exam set brief set by the board at the start of Year 13. Both of these compositions are marked externally.

Listening and Appraising is the written paper and is based on Four Areas of Study. Two of these are compulsory and have associated set works which change every year:

AOS 1: Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven.

AOS2: Popular Song: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band

Staff and students together then select two other AoS from the other four, the options being:

- Further Developments in Jazz
- Sacred Music from the Baroque period
- Programme Music 1820 - 1910
- Innovations in Music from 1900 onwards.