

COMBERTON VILLAGE COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Lower School Curriculum Outline

Year 7	Skills & Musical Features	Project Examples	Content and Assessment
Autumn Term	Graphic Score Dynamics Tempo Rhythm Rhythm Grids Duration Group Work Ostinato Keyboard navigation/ICT Simple Music Structures Research Appraisal Pitch	Expectations and aspirations What is music? Creative vocal/body sound project: Soundscapes Introduction to instruments ‘Stomp’ Introduction to the Keyboard Introduction to music ICT Vocal project: Christmas concert	A fundamentally practical introduction to the year, checking understanding of key concepts of rhythm and pitch while learning some basic keyboard, Music ICT and singing skills. In a mixture of whole class and small group work we will explore Rhythmic Soundscapes and Christmas songs Assessment: A baseline test consisting of a practical group composition task and a listening exercise.
Spring Term	Pentatonic Scales Understanding Pitch notation Timbre/Sonority Rhythm Notation Syncopation Interlocking Rhythms Structure – chord sequences and riff patterns Staff Notation Introduction	Music around the World, e.g. Indonesian gamelan Australian music Chinese music Keyboard skills – development Rap (social issues) Music ICT – Logic/Sibelius (intro/skills consolidation)	Through an investigation of folk music styles from around the World, learners will explore pentatonic scales, simple structures, more complex rhythms and lyric-writing. Rap will be used to explore Citizenship and Climate Change. Assessment: Practical progress on keyboard or another instrument. Rhythmic rap composition and performance.

	Lyric Writing Harmony - Changing Chords Introduction to Modes	Folk music (British vocal & instrumental)	
Summer Term	Pitch notation, treble and bass Melody Primary Triads (I, IV, V) Chords Structure & Form (Binary, Ternary, Song) Major/Minor Chords Octaves 5ths Modal scales Staff notation (Grand Staff) Consolidation of skills	Keyboard/music ICT skills - development Renaissance music: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dance music • canons • ballads Class concert Yr 7 syllabus consolidation	A study of the revolution of Renaissance Music and the development of pitched notation. Learners will also work towards a class concert and explore harmonic concepts such as Major/Minor and the use of simple triadic chords. Assessment: Listening and understanding. Musical literacy (signs and symbols relating to music notation). Performance assessment.
Extended Curriculum: (trips/visits/after school activities) Extra-Curricular activities include Vox Box choir, String Group, Rock Band, Orchestra, Ukulele Group, Woodwind Group, Brass Group, Big Band, Senior Choir, and Jazz Band.			
COMBERTON VILLAGE COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT Lower School Curriculum Outline			
Year 8	Skills & Musical Features	Project Examples	Content and Assessment

Autumn Term	Staff notation (conventions beyond pitch and rhythm) Sequences Pedal notes Ornaments 4-bar phrases Tonic/Dominant harmony Rhythmic Q&A Variation form Melodic lyricism Chords II, III, VI Emotional expression: e.g. use of dynamics, timbre, effects, etc. Themes and interpretation	‘The Tool Box’ Baroque Classical Romantic Programmatic Music Christmas Music	Through studying set works, listening, performing and composing, learners will explore some of key musical tools used by composers since the Baroque era until the Romantic period. Assessment: A baseline listening test. Progressive keyboard assessment. Use of musical elements through structured composition work.
Spring Term	Riffs/Bass lines Lyric Writing Word Setting Structure Song Form Vocal work arrangements Development of melody writing Research Appraisal skills (development) ICT – development of Logic Pro use to create backing tracks & basic recording techniques Riffs	1950s Rock & Roll 1960s Popular music Song writing – Music Mogul	Performance and composition of popular music beginning with Rock ‘n’ Roll and progressing to their own group song composition where students form a band and release a single. We will learn lots about song writing as we go along, from chord-sequences to song structure and word-setting. Students will also learn about the music industry and how an artist can interact with it. Assessment: Progress through a series of composition tasks relating to the band project.
Summer Term	Consolidation of skills Group work Performance skills Call and Response Syncopation Interlocking Rhythms	Mini-musical / Mini-opera Music around the World: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calypso • African 	Completion of the band project and launch of the band's single. Learners will also explore Calypso and African Music as part of a World Music unit. Assessment: Individual assessment of contribution to band project single and musical performance within it.

--	--	--	--

Extended Curriculum: (trips/visits/after school activities)

Year 8s are very welcome to join any of the Music Department clubs and activities which are on offer at any point during the year. They are also eligible to participate in the Music/German exchange programme. Please ask about our range of instrumental lessons available for your child. Extra-Curricular activities include Vox Box choir, String Group, Rock Band, Orchestra, Ukulele Group, Woodwind Group, Brass Group, Big Band, Senior Choir, and Jazz Band.

COMBERTON VILLAGE COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Lower School Curriculum Outline

Year 9	Skills & Musical Features	Project Examples	Content and Assessment
Autumn Term	Paired work Riffs/bass lines Improvisation Structure Solo playing Blues notes/chords Song writing Notation - Writing Music Performance skills Rhythm work e.g. syncopation and cross-rhythms Research & appraisal	Blues Music: Spirituals Protest/autobiographical/work song blues Communication blues Jazz Music of Central and South America: Reggae, Samba, Salsa ‘Musical D.I.Y’ (self-directed learning)	Learners will study the context and conventions of the Blues completing paired work on Riffs/bass lines, improvisation, structure, solo playing, Blue notes and 7th chords. They will explore song writing in this idiom. Later in the term, Students will tackle the complex rhythms of Reggae Music through a performance of Three Little Birds. Assessment: Musical literacy assessment as part of baseline test. Demonstrate practical knowledge and understanding of scales and chord sequences.
Spring Term	Ragas Non-western scales Alap, Jor, Jhala structure Atonal	World music: Indian Middle Eastern	Learners explore Indian classical music learning to use different ragas and structures. A study of new musical directions takes in minimalism, atonal composition and aleatoric music.

	<p>Irregular rhythms Dissonance/note clusters Sampling/sequencing/ICT Arranging Parody Structure Movement & music Interpretation and expression</p>	<p>Music for Dance Minimalism 20th Century</p> <p>Music from Art</p>	<p>Assessment: Topic test on music from different parts of the World.</p>
Summer Term	<p>Consolidation of skills Responding to a given brief Refining and developing ideas Realisation</p> <p>Creating an impact/atmosphere Mood setting Understanding effect of audience/venue/live/recorded</p>	<p>Radio Shows</p> <p>Composing from a given brief</p> <p>Free choices of style for composition and performance</p> <p>GCSE preparation</p>	<p>Learners will explore the relationship between music and art, and explore approaches to a range of different composition briefs as part of an individual composition brief. Students will also get the chance to perform a song or arrangement of their choice in a self-directed performance project.</p> <p>Assessment: Solo composition to a brief. Performance element assessed as part of self-directed performance project.</p>

Extended Curriculum: (trips/visits/after school activities)

Year 9s are very welcome to join any of the Music Department clubs and activities which are on offer at any point during the year. They are also eligible to participate in the German/Music Exchange programme. Extra-Curricular activities include Vox Box choir, String Group, Rock Band, Orchestra, Ukulele Group, Woodwind Group, Brass Group, Big Band, Senior Choir, and Jazz Band.