



It is our vision that Swanshurst students will explore a variety of genres and styles of music through performing, composing and appraising activities to expand their own musical knowledge and skills.

These experiences will provide an opportunity to develop their own musical identities and express themselves creatively.

Key Stage 3

In Key Stage 3 students are given a broad performance-based curriculum, and will also gain experience of composition using Logic Pro X in our iMac suite. They are also taught how to read music and to listen and appraise



Year 7

Students study the keyboard completing solo and group performances including music from the Harry Potter films. They are introduced to music technology through composing music for a Monsters Inc clip before they create their own Electronic Dance tracks.

Year 8

Students further develop their keyboard skills through the study of The Blues before they are given opportunities to study World Music including Samba and Djembe performances. They then learn the ukulele for small group performances of some popular songs.

Students develop their composing skills by creating their own leitmotifs and film music for a scary film scene using Logic Pro X.

Key Stage 4

In KS4, students follow the Edexcel GCSE Music course (1MU0). They are required to submit:

- Two performances (*one solo, one ensemble*) worth 30% of overall grade.
- Two compositions (*one to a set brief*) worth 30% of overall grade.
- A listening and appraising exam that includes the study of 8 set works from 4 areas of study worth 40% of overall grade.



All students in **Key Stage 4** have weekly instrumental or vocal lessons with staff from Birmingham Music Service and are formally assessed termly as part of their assessment points for the course.

Year 9

Students build on prior knowledge of music theory and are given an introduction to the History of Music before they start to study set works. They complete foundational composition exercises, relating to the set works to include a song writing task and composing for a solo instrument. Students study the Bach, Queen, Afro Celt Sound System and Star Wars set works with an assessment point for each.

Year 10

Students extend their knowledge of composition and begin work on their free choice composition for coursework. They also study the Stephen Schwartz and Purcell set works with an assessment point for each.

Year 11

Students continue to develop their free choice compositions and also are given the 4 stimuli for the composition to a set brief by Edexcel. They then study the Esperanza Spalding and Beethoven set works with an assessment point for each. Lessons also include preparation for PPE exams, focussing on the section B12 mark question and unheard listening.