

# MUSIC

## Curriculum Vision Statement

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"How is it that music can, without words, evoke our laughter, our fears, our highest aspirations"

Jane Swan

## Vision

At Northampton School for Girls our Music curriculum allows us to study and explore a wide variety of musical genres and styles from across the world. We cultivate musicians who are confident performers, creative composers and critical listeners.

We make music fun and exciting, with a high level of engagement. We challenge and stretch learners by exploring the three fundamentals of performance, composition and listening. Music at NSG prepares our students with academic and life skills that develop the whole child; instilling discipline, commitment, confidence and perseverance as well as working together as a team. These skills can be applied across all subject disciplines, beyond Key Stage 3 and also beyond the academic environment.

Music at NSG prepares our students with technical and expressive practical skills as well as personal skills which are transferable across our whole school curriculum. This will help students who want to pursue a career in music, ranging from technical to creative, from business and legal to teaching and therapy. The options are extensive and include artist & repertoire co-ordinators/representatives, composer/songwriters, instrument maker/repair, music industry related lawyer, concert/festival/venue organisers, performers, recording technicians/engineers, teachers, therapists and journalism.

## Our aims

- To give opportunities to explore musical styles from around the world.
- To develop and practise skills (performance, composition, listening).
- To develop the whole child.
- To enrich students' lives.
- To prepare students for their GCSE.
- To develop cross-curricular skills such as team work, ICT, problem solving, social, moral and respect.

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## Implementation

The NSG Music curriculum ensures students listen, play, perform and evaluate. This is embedded in the classroom activities as well as the various concerts and performances, the learning of instruments, and the joining of one of our many musical ensembles. Students learn from teacher demonstrations, hands on practice and experimentation, individualised feedback and regular retrieval practice to embed key knowledge and skills.

## Key Stage 3 Topics

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calypso</li> <li>• Folk</li> <li>• Gamelan</li> <li>• Medieval</li> <li>• African</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rock'n'Roll</li> <li>• Night Music</li> <li>• Variations</li> <li>• Leitmotif</li> <li>• Reggae</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salsa</li> <li>• Samba</li> <li>• Tango</li> <li>• Disco</li> <li>• Film</li> <li>• Battle of the Bands</li> </ul>

All topics are assessed through either performance or composition, and listening.

## Key Stage 4 Topics

YEAR 10	YEAR 11
<p>Set works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Killer Queen</li> <li>• Star Wars</li> <li>• Music for a While</li> <li>• Defying Gravity</li> </ul> <p>Composition 1 (Minimalism)</p> <p>Solo Performance</p> <p>Theory sheets</p>	<p>Set works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brandenburg Concerto</li> <li>• Samba Em Preludio</li> <li>• Beethoven Piano Sonata</li> <li>• Release Afro Celt Sound System</li> </ul> <p>Composition 2 (to a set brief)</p> <p>Ensemble Performance</p> <p>Unheard listening practise and revision</p>



## Assessment

Pupils at KS3 are assessed for each unit across the three main principles of performance, composition and listening/appraising. The data is then used to track progress throughout the course of the year and can be used to create flight paths to predict students' progress at the end of Key Stage 4. Throughout KS4 pupils are assessed on every set work through exam style listening and essay questions, this helps to consolidate learning, identify common misconceptions, which in turn informs lesson planning. Feedback identifies the next steps for improvement and students are given time to respond to this feedback to ensure impact on progress. Coursework is assessed as it is completed (performance) and after controlled condition sessions (composition) with feedback given to enable students to make improvements.

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## Independent Learning

Home Learning tasks are set every 2 weeks for Year 7 and Year 8 and weekly for Year 9. GCSE and Post-16 students are set weekly Home Learning activities. Home Learning aims to reinforce and build on the knowledge and understanding that has been learned in lessons, giving students the time and opportunity to listen to pieces in the same style and investigate the genres further.

## Extra-curricular

Students are provided with the opportunity to perform in a variety of different extracurricular clubs, aimed to develop their versatility as a performer. We currently offer beginner and advanced groups for vocalists, woodwind, brass and string instruments. This is coupled with smaller ensembles including Clarinet Choir, Sax Ensemble, Flute Choir, Guitar Ensemble, Brass Group, Keyboard Club and String Quartets with Jazz fulfilments coming from Big Band and Tie Rack. Performance opportunities come throughout the year with 5 main concerts and solo performance opportunities available at open evenings and our music awards evening.

In the Performing Arts department at NSG we collaborate to create a biannual musical, students rehearse in the autumn term and perform in February. Previous productions have included: *'Little Shop of Horrors'*, *'Hairspray'*, *'Beauty and the Beast'*, *'We Will Rock You'* and most recently, *'Les Miserables'*.