



Music Policy

Music takes place at The Annex School on Friday afternoons. It is run in tandem with end of week reflections, stationary inspection, end of week quiz and free time. The emphasis here is on a relaxing and mindful end to the week. Music operates as a series of 1:1 or 2:1 rotational session encompassing students specific musical interests and inclinations. These include singing lessons, guitar lessons, keyboard work, drum/percussion lessons and music mixing sessions. Students initially familiarise themselves with basic music concepts involving attaining timing beat and rhythm via learning drums, students then move on to keyboards for them to attain an understanding of musical notes, finally students move on to singing and mixing and learn how to fully compile music tracks. Most of our students are often unfamiliar with music outside of the popular media driven industry, so the process to find a personal and confident, comfortable style can take considerable time and research work. The idea is to widen their musical comfort whilst also building on their inclinations and interests. For some students the work can be very emotive for instance, we have had students constructing raps and songs about their feelings involving previous negative situations prior to being put into care and this can form part of their wider 'Life story work'.

The sessions are directed towards the completion of The Arts Award qualifications; Arts Discover Award (E.L.3), Bronze Arts Award L1 and Silver Arts Award L2. The aim is for students to produce a portfolio of work incorporating personal responses and research.

School music related trips are occasionally arranged looking at local music and theatre venues used to broaden their cultural experiences. Students will also regularly experience putting their work together at a specialised local music studio.

A professional working musician versed in various styles of music and experienced in working with difficult young people is utilised. An Annex school Teacher also supports the overall smooth delivery and acts as an Arts Award Assessor as required. The musician also attends our last day of School Sports Day presentations and arranges musical performances with the students throughout this day. Work may also be posted online for wider viewing though this is done in line with strict safeguarding policy.

Some of the students have gone on to have additional music sessions specialising in singing and learning specific instruments. Some of the pupils have inclinations to pursue music further at college.

Many students carry their music interests on into the residential setting; many have personalised bedrooms with keyboards, guitars, mixing desks and studio systems in situ.

This subject form part of the wider school strategy involving inclusion within the School Arts-mark Award.

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