

Year 8

Term 1

Off beat

Reggae focus

This unit explores reggae music and the culture it comes from. After exploring the origins of reggae music as one of a number of different styles of Caribbean music, pupils learn about the importance of bass lines in reggae music and how offbeat chords are a key feature of music of this genre. Pupils explore the strong and weak beats of the bar, syncopation and the effect that this has on reggae music, before looking at how "fragmented" melodic parts can be used as bass line riffs and melodic hooks. Pupils look at the famous reggae musician, Bob Marley and his influence on Rastafarianism to a worldwide audience through the lyrics of reggae songs and explore the different textural layers which make up reggae music. Pupils will develop their practical skills on the keyboard, playing triad chords, Bass line riffs, more complex melodic shapes then learning how all the different layers can fit together.

Term 2

Variations:

This unit develops pupils' ability to recognise, explore and make creative use of the elements of music found in variation form. Pupils begin this unit by working with a famous theme and exploring different musical ways in which this can be varied and developed, using the elements of music and exploring changes in tonality and rhythm. Pupils explore how composers have used variation form in a selection of music from different times and places. Finally, pupils learn about the concept of Ground Bass, as a type of Variation Form, performing Pachelbel's "Canon" and composing their own Ground Bass Variations before looking at how Ground Bass has been used in popular songs.

Term 3

This unit explores songs and music from the stage, beginning with an exploration into "What makes up a musical?" Pupils explore the history and developments of elements of a musical, from their origins in opera, before exploring the impact

of an "opening number" ('All That Jazz') in terms of chords and vamps, putting together a group performance.