



# Music

## Our intent

We believe that all students have the right to a musical education and should have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. This creative subject allows students to express themselves whilst learning not only the fundamentals of Music but also about different styles and cultures. Music at TLA allows all learners to access a varied curriculum focussing on the key areas of listening, performing and composing. Elements of music such as dynamics, duration and structure, develop students' wider experience of what music entails.

We aim to promote a love of music and offer a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, including performance and composition both inside and outside of the classroom, in order to encourage music as a form of expression and a way of promoting good mental health. We seek to improve verbal literacy through speaking effectively and accurately about music composition, including writing in an extended way about music.



## Our 'why'

Music is an outlet for creativity, an opportunity for our students to succeed in an expressive art. Developing love of music not only gives students self-confidence, but also provides them with the chance to learn a new talent, find a new skill and build relationships around shared interests.

Music promotes team work; students learn to work in ensembles, sharing ideas, time-keeping, harnessing leadership skills and ability to take direction. Students learn, in music, how to work as a team to create a polished, finished product which they can be proud of.

The range of musical influences allows students to understand different genres, cultures, contexts and time periods. It allows students access to a different way of looking at these parts of life.

## Our 'how'

Music is a subject that helps to develop students' wider understanding. For example, we learn about various different styles and cultures and explain the context whether that be African Music taught in Year 7 or Grime and how it originated from the council estates of East London in Year 8. As well as this, Music is a perfect example of a subject that develops students' personal, social and moral development as students learn to listen to each other sympathetically, show encouragement as well as critical feedback skills. Ensemble work plays an integral role within the classroom and students must learn how to work as part of a team to produce a finished piece.

Through fun and engaging lessons, and additionally funded activities and tuition, students are taught about the basics of notation, pulse and the elements of Music. This is built upon throughout the two year course and although the topics change, the fundamentals of listening, composing and performing all run through. In Year 8, students are introduced to more complex themes such as chords and harmony whilst still referring to their prior knowledge and building upon it. Throughout Key Stage 3, students are given the opportunity to try different instruments, including music technology, and learn about various different styles and time periods to increase their enjoyment of the subject and knowledge further still. We have pioneered, at TLA, the use of LaunchPad, in order to offer students a modern alternative to traditional instruments.

Although a practical subject, Music lessons are still used to further the development of students' literacy skills as they are throughout the school. Students are encouraged to use subject specific vocabulary and critically assess whilst speaking eloquently in the classroom. In Key Stage 4, students are expected to be able to write using these same skills in preparation for the longer exam questions in the GCSE listening exam.