

Year 8 Overview

In Year 8, students further develop their performance, composition, and listening skills through a variety of practical and creative musical experiences. They begin by building ukulele skills and learning to read tablature and chord charts within the context of Hawaiian music. In the spring term, they apply their knowledge to the Blues, exploring 12-bar chord progressions, walking basslines, and improvisation. In the summer, students refine their keyboard and notation skills by performing a solo piece requiring coordination of both hands, while also developing an understanding of the orchestra, its instrument families, and timbre, alongside strengthening their listening and appraisal skills.

Half Term	Curriculum Plan
1	Ukulele Skills Students explore instrumental techniques required to play chord progressions fluently, how to read tablature and chord charts and the context of the role of ukulele in Hawaiian music.
2	Ukulele Skills Students continue to develop their fluency on ukuleles, developing smooth chord changes. Students will learn develop an understanding of the difference major and minor chords and perform songs using chord extensions.
3	Blues Music Students will learn about 12 bar blues chord progressions and 7 th chord extensions and walking basslines.
4	Blues Music Students will develop their ensemble skills, learn about the blues scale and how to use it to improvise over a 12-bar blues chord progression and walking bassline.
5	The Orchestra Students will learn about the layout of the orchestra, the instrumental families and develop their ear for recognising instruments in the brass and wood wind families. Students will continue to develop their keyboard skills, with a key focus on techniques and coordination of both left and right hands.
6	The Orchestra Students will continue to develop their knowledge of instrumental families, focusing on the percussion and string families. Students will continue to develop their notation and performance skills, developing their coordination of left and right hands.

Independent study:

In the lead up to assessment points students will be encouraged to focus on revision and retrieval practice to support assessment preparation.

Useful links:

[OAK National Academy](#)

Assessments:

Students complete practical performances, ensemble performances, composition tasks, retrieval quizzes, and written theory assessments throughout the year.

- End Autumn – Ukulele performance skills & Knowledge of chords
- End Spring – Blues ensemble performance, improvisation and knowledge of stylistic elements of the blues genre.
- End Summer – Keyboard performance demonstrating fluency between both hands and knowledge of orchestral instruments.