

Year 9 Overview

In Year 9, students develop their musical skills through digital composition, performance, and analysis. They use a digital audio workstation to create, edit, and mix music, building confidence with layering and effects. Students also enhance their performance skills by learning and playing a range of riffs on keyboards and guitars. In the summer term, they explore film music, analysing how musical elements shape storytelling before composing their own soundtrack to a trailer, making creative decisions to reflect mood, character, and narrative.

Half Term	Curriculum Plan
1	Digital Audio Workstation Students focus on building core skills in a DAW. They learn how to create tracks, record and edit MIDI, and apply basic mixing tools such as balancing and panning.
2	Digital Audio Workstation Students will continue to develop their DAW skills, building confidence in the use of virtual instruments, and how to create MIDI performances that sound closer to a live recording
3	Instrumental performance skills Students learn a number of distinct riffs on keyboards and guitars, working on accuracy, fluency, hand coordination, and confident technique. Through regular practice and guided rehearsal, students build their ability to perform short musical patterns.
4	Instrumental performance skills Students continue to develop their performance skills with the opportunity to compose and write their own riffs.
5	Music in the movies Students learn the key motifs from the James Bond theme, focusing on accurate performance and understanding what makes these motifs so distinctive.
6	Bandlab Students will transfer the motifs into BandLab, applying the digital audio workstation skills they developed earlier in the year, making conscious decisions grounded in their understanding of the musical elements.

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 – Demonstration of basic DAW skills.
- End Spring – Performance skills using keyboards, ukuleles and guitar.
- End Summer – Film composition on Bandlab.