

## **Curriculum intent – Music**

At Highgate Wood we believe music is a powerful, unique form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act. The Music department at Highgate Wood encourages self-expression and self confidence. As a non-verbal language, music can convey complexity of emotions and offers a means of expression.

KS3 music lessons alternate between performance, composition and listening lessons in preparation for the skills needed at GCSE Music. 50% of lessons at KS3 involve improvement of instrumental skills as part of a small group. Working in small musical groups requires the development of trust and respect and skills of negotiation and compromise. By the end of KS3, students are expected to perform on an instrument with confidence, in a group and as a soloist, understand basic music theory, discuss and analyse a wide range of music, and compose using music technology.

At GCSE students will be studying the Conventions of Pop Music, Rhythms of the World, Film Music and The Concerto Through Time. Coursework accounts for 60% of the final grade and includes submission of recordings of performances and compositions.

The department has achieved strong results at GCSE with 81% of students achieving a grade 4 or better in 2018.

Students are given many opportunities to play music outside of lesson time, in instrumental lessons with one-to-one tuition and extra-curricular clubs, including orchestra, jazz band, choir, brass, guitar and mandolin ensembles. We also encourage informal practice with our practical rooms being open most lunch times for students to come and play.

We have many concerts throughout the year, including the winter concert, an Easter acoustic concert, a summer MADFest concert, and work with the Drama and Technology departments for the Musical Production every two years.