[](https://www.kingsdownschool.co.uk/)

**Year 8 Curriculum Explained**

Our Year 8 Music curriculum intends to build upon and develop the skills and knowledge taught in Year 7. This means that they will:

1. Understand musical theory including the terms tone and semitone, sharp and flat
2. Know about different types of scale
3. Know what a chord is and how they can be used in compositions
4. Develop a deeper understanding of the Elements of Music vocabulary
5. Develop keyboard-playing skills including using the correct fingers and the opportunity to play with two hands
6. Learn to play specific pieces of music
7. Compose music both individually and in groups
8. Listen to, describe and interpret music of differing styles and genres
9. Learn about music from different countries, cultures and time periods

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The curriculum continues to develop student’s understanding of musical theory and vocabulary and uses this to inform practical tasks. This is underpinned by listening tasks that aim to develop critical analysis and understanding of musical styles. We sequence these in the best order so that students can see how these fundamental ideas link together.

Unit 1 – Tones, Semitones and Major Scales

Unit 2 – The Mischievous Robot (Composition Unit)

Unit 3 – Reggae Music

Unit 4 – Popular Music

Unit 5 – The Blues