

Home-School Learning Collaboration – Music

Topics in this cycle: Blues and Jazz	Autumn 1	Year Group: 8
Key knowledge/concepts to be learnt ('Tell me about....')		Websites/blogs/YouTube links and further reading to deepen and consolidate learning
• What do we know about Blues and Jazz? Students listen to classic Blues and Jazz recordings and discuss their significance to help them understand the historical and cultural context of Blues and Jazz. • Can I learn the 12-Bar Blues Structure? Students will analyse the structure of the 12-bar blues, practice playing chords on the keyboard. • Can I increase my awareness of iconic Blues and Jazz Songs? The class explore iconic songs like "Hound Dog" and "Jackass Blues." This involves listen to these songs, analysing their lyrics and musical elements. • Can we make use of the Walking Bass and Blues Scale? Students practice walking bass patterns, and learn to improvise using notes from the blues scale. • Can we improvise on the 12-bar blues? Students will follow guided improvisation exercises on keyboard and other instruments. • Can we deepen our understanding of triad chords and basic music theory? The class will explore triad chords, music notation, and key signatures. • Can we evaluate our understanding of Blues and Jazz concepts? Students will be encouraged to reflect on their musical journey. This may involve Individual or group performances of the 12-bar blues, reflection and feedback.		Blues in Britain https://www.bluesinbritain.org/ Blues in Britain is a magazine that covers the blues music scene in the UK. While it's more geared towards enthusiasts, it provides insights into blues events, artists, and venues in the country. The Blues Foundation (UK Chapter) The Blues Foundation - UK Chapter https://www.ukblues.org/ The UK chapter of The Blues Foundation is dedicated to promoting and supporting blues music in the UK. Their website offers information about events, news, and blues-related initiatives in the country. Learn Blues Guitar https://www.learnbluesguitarnow.com This website is an excellent resource for students interested in learning to play blues guitar. It offers free lessons, tabs, and resources for beginners and intermediate players.

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Key Vocabulary and Definitions To Be Learnt		What Will The Assessment Look Like?
Blues	A genre of music characterised by its soulful expression, often dealing with life's hardships and emotions.	Quality of musical outcome – Students will be marked on their technical, constructive, and expressive work in class. Aural / Literacy test (November): 1 hour • Short answer questions • Multiple choice • Listening critically and writing about music.
Jazz	A musical genre closely intertwined with Blues, known for its improvisational and syncopated rhythms.	
12-Bar Blues	A common chord progression structure used in many Blues songs, consisting of 12 bars or measures.	
Walking Bass	A repetitive and steady bassline pattern often associated with the Blues, creating a rhythmic foundation.	
Hound Dog	A famous Blues song popularized by Elvis Presley, known for its catchy melody and lyrics.	
Blues Scale	A specific scale used in Blues music, characterized by unique intervals and expressive notes.	Family Learning Opportunities Blues Crossword Challenge: Create a crossword puzzle with clues related to blues history, artists, and songs. Challenge each other's knowledge and vocabulary. Blues Art Gallery: Express your interpretations of blues music through art. Paint, draw, or create collages inspired by blues album covers or lyrics. Blues Movie Night: Watch films featuring blues music, like "Cadillac Records" or "The Blues Brothers." Discuss how the music enhances the storytelling. Blues Geography Quiz: Explore the roots of blues by studying the locations where it originated. Create a quiz about famous blues cities and landmarks.
Triad Chords	Basic three-note chords used in Blues and many other musical styles, creating harmony.	
Syncopation	Emphasis on offbeat rhythms, adding complexity and groove to Blues music.	
Cultural Context	Understanding the historical and social background of Blues music's origins and impact.	
12-Bar Structure	The organization of Blues songs into 12 bars, providing a familiar framework for musicians.	
Improvisation	Creation of music in the moment, often associated with jazz, but also prevalent in many world music traditions, allowing musicians to express themselves freely.	
Melody	The main musical theme or tune in a Blues song, often sung or played on an instrument.	
Harmonica	A common instrument in Blues, played by blowing and drawing air through reeds to create sound.	
Riff	A short, catchy, and repetitive musical phrase or pattern, often played on a guitar, forming the song's backbone. It is a form of ostinato.	
Rhythm	Long and short note values are combined into a pattern.	