

Music at Breakspeare Every student at Breakspeare has the opportunity to take part in a music lesson once a week. Students may access their music in a class group, smaller group or through individual sessions. The music curriculum covers all basic music topics including beat, rhythm, pitch, dynamics, timbre, composition, styles of music, emotions experienced through music and appreciation and music technology. These are linked to cross curricular topics which are chosen according to students' interests. The curriculum is supported by concrete, sensory materials wherever possible. The emphasis; as in other subjects, is on listening, looking, exploring, sharing, developing fine and gross motor skills and appreciation of each other's contributions, while having fun. All students are given the opportunity to take part independently or with help and to experience a variety of instruments both tuned and untuned , strings, blown instruments and sound makers, body sounds and vocalisation. Students have the opportunity to attend music club and/or choir at lunch time and to "sing" together in assembly. There are also many opportunities provided by the class teacher to experience musical activities e.g. singing, listening to music, exploring sound makers. Students experience live music performances in school including brass ensemble, woodwind group, didgeridoo, and also as part of drama performances e.g. Bamboozle, Oily Cart. They also take part in music workshops e.g. Create, Stomp. We have links with local schools. We share music making by taking part in events e.g. Primary Music festival, SEN music festival and Christmas concert with Parmiter's.

Breakspeare Arts Award.

A group of our older students are given the opportunity to work towards a Bronze or Silver Arts Award.

Breakspeare have taken part in this award since 2008. Twenty students have achieved the bronze award and three have gained Silver award.

Achieving a Silver Arts Award is a massive achievement for our students.

Currently three students are working towards a Silver and one towards a Bronze award.

Breakspeare students meet with other special schools at a Hertfordshire Music Service Centre. They have the opportunity to work with other students and staff, share experiences and socialise at break and lunchtime. Students are able to access a blog to share ideas and comments with tutors and other SEN schools involved in Arts Award through Herts Funky Pie Company.

Workshops run for two hours, six sessions per term and are led by Judy Manning (Herts Music Advisor for SEN) working with professional musicians and artists including Karen Barrow (singer, songwriter), Jo Howe (Artist) and Tim Emler (musician).

Students follow up work in school. This includes a comprehensive photographic diary in the form of a private blog and scrapbook. They also organise activities in school e.g. Breakspeare's Got Talent, assemblies and practice creative skills. Students use a variety of skills including art, music, dance, drama, literacy and computing.

Opportunities during the course include a selection of the following activities:-

orchestral percussion, dance, puppet making and performing, light painting, storytelling, african drumming, taiko drumming, songwriting, strings, keyboard, drum kit, film making, cd recording, cd cover design, recording a soundtrack.

They also attend and evaluate at least three Arts Events.

The course culminates with a production performed by the students, in a theatre, to an invited audience.

Topics have included Space, Olympics, Opposites and The Sea.

There is also a public part of the site where you can view recent work and information. The Funky Pie Company, (www.thefunkypiecompany.com).

Arts award is accredited by Trinity Guildhall. Bronze and Silver Arts Awards are at the same standard and therefore have the same level of difficulty as GCSE's but are smaller in size.