



# Music Development Plan 2025/26

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/6
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mr Q Hutchinson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Miss N Welch
Name of local music hub	Dacorum Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Hertfordshire Music Service

This is a summary of how our school delivers Music education to all our students across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

## Part A: Curriculum Music

The Music curriculum at Ashlyns focuses on the key areas of Performing, Composing and Listening and Appraising. The curriculum is broad and varied across Key Stages 3, 4 and 5.

Music at Key Stage 3 comprises 1 lesson per week, taught in form groups in years 7 and 8 and in mixed groups in year 9, with the following topics being studied in a modular style throughout the year. Each module is assessed at the end of the topic, with the assessment based on a performance, a composition, a test of knowledge or a combination of these.

### Year 7

Autumn 1/2	Note values & rhythm	Basics of music notation. Composition of rhythm pieces on flat io performed on unpitched percussion
Autumn 1/2	Medieval Music	Music and instruments of the Medieval Period Performance of estampie and saltarello on keyboards
Spring 1/2	Power of the	What is a pentatonic scale? Bobby McFerrin

	Pentatonic	Melodic and harmonic composition using pentatonic scales Playing pentatonic melodies
Spring 1/2	The orchestra	Orchestral instruments/families Performance of 'Ode to Joy' on keyboards
Summer 1/2	Minimalism	Minimalist techniques Composition using flat.io Class 'In C' performance Steve Reich/other composers
Summer 1/2	Sea Shanties	History and social significance Performance of shanties on keyboards

## Year 8

Autumn 1/2	Africa	African society Drumming (whole class and group)
Autumn 1/2	Cuba	Cuban Salsa Paired performance of 'Es Una Cosa Latina'
Spring 1/2	Gamelan	Music, traditions and Geography of Indonesia Composition and performance of Gamelan music
Spring 1/2	Indian Classical Music	Indian Classical music - Raga/Drone/Tala Performance on keyboard
Summer 1/2	Ukuleles	Practically based unit Performance of chords of C, F, G and Am Performance of C pentatonic scale Group composition using the above
Summer 1/2	12 bar blues	Links to the music of Africa Performance of 12 bar blues chords on keyboards Performance of In the Mood Performance 'Moanin' Improvisation on the C blues scale

## Year 9

Autumn 1/2	Jazz	History of Jazz - the Jazz Greats Links to slavery Group practical performance - Autumn Leaves
Autumn 1/2	Jamaican music	Ska - Rock Steady - Reggae Keyboard performance
Spring 1/2	Film Music	How music is used in film Composition of film music to a scene Performance of film music on KBs
Spring 1/2	Kije	Performance of Kije's march

		Students modernise using Soundtrap to a template
Summer 1/2	Pop Music	Different pop styles History of pop through decades, 50s to 90s Keyboard performance of choice of 6 pop songs (with accidentals, more advanced accompaniments/melodies)
Summer 1/2	EDM	History of EDM Composition of EDM on Soundtrap

Key:

	IT based unit focusing on the use of music software
	Practical performance based focusing on playing electronic keyboards
	Practical performance based on using tuned & untuned percussion or ukuleles

Music at Key Stage 4 is an option and follows the OCR GCSE course. A link to the specification can be found [here](#). We are allocated 5 hours a fortnight to complete the curriculum. This curriculum consists of four Areas of Study: Rhythms Of The World, The Concerto Through Time, Film Music and Popular Music as well as a performance module and a composition module which are assessed as Non Examined Assessment (NEA) in March/April of Year 11. We offer Music Theory intervention sessions to GCSE students who wish to improve their understanding of music theory in preparation for composition.

Key Stage 5 follows the WJEC/EDUQAS A level Specification. A link can be found [here](#). We are allocated 8 hours per fortnight to complete the curriculum, and students have 2 hours of timetabled Directed Study. The course focuses on three areas of study: The Development Of The Symphony; Musical Theatre and Music Into The Twentieth Century. There is also a performance module and a composition module.

**Accessibility** - The Music Department follows the school's SEND policy. However, we assess the individual needs of students within our department and adjust access supports as necessary to allow all students equitable access to our Music Curriculum in KS3, 4 & 5.

We use a variety of approaches in order to make the lesson content accessible to all students. When learning melodies on the keyboards, we provide accessible ways to learn the keyboard, including guided sheet music and falling notes videos.

In our Year 8 unit on African music, students create drumming rhythms using the names of African countries.

Programmes such as Soundtrap allow students to work at their own pace and staff use their wealth of expertise and experience to adapt work to students' needs.

## **Part B: Co-curricular music**

Instrumental/vocal tuition is provided by teachers from the Hertfordshire Music Service on the following instruments:

All brass, all strings, all woodwind, drum kit, classical guitar, electric guitar, electric bass guitar, piano and voice.

Prices are dictated by the HMS. Students taking GCSE music are given a £20 discount and students studying A level music receive 30 minutes free tuition per week. There is provision for PP students and we have also provided free lessons for students from low income families. We currently have 70 students taking tuition, of which 17, are registered as SEND.

The department runs the following groups outside of the classroom:

- Orchestra
- Soul Band
- Whole School Choir
- Senior Choir
- Junior choir

There are also various other student run groups.

## **Part C: Musical Experiences**

Concert events:

- Students are given opportunities to play at KS4 Presentation Evening & the Senior Citizens' Tea Party
- There are five public concerts per year including a carol concert and showcase summer concert
- We have taken the orchestra and choir to Germany.

We are a forward thinking department. Becoming a Google school has revolutionised our approach to music provision and the curriculum has benefitted hugely as a result. Technology has enabled us to streamline resources and provide our students with vastly improved tools to learn.

The whole department is now housed in a dedicated music block. This facility comprises 3 teaching rooms, 8 practice rooms (including a drum kit room) and a band room. Instrumental lessons are taught in these rooms and students are also encouraged to use them at break time, lunch time and the end of the day to practise.