

Music development plan summary:

Haberdashers' Adams

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mr J Wysome
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Telford and Wrekin
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Independent peripatetic staff

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils 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 pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

Key Stage 3 music is designed to help all students work towards the possibility of completing a GCSE in the subject further down the line. With that in mind, the key musical elements are at the heart of all schemes of work in one way or another.

Students in years 7-9 receive one hour of timetabled music every week. Within the first two years they get the opportunity to learn a string, woodwind or brass instrument for no external cost, as the year 7 and 8 classes split in half each week to enable 15 students to work with one of our expert peripatetic staff. The year 7s have a performance evening scheduled at the end of each term to demonstrate what they have learned to an audience of parents and friends.

Music lessons will generally consist of a whole class singing and/or listening task before they separate off for the instrumental practical sessions. The emphasis is on

practical skill, whether that is performance, composition or active listening, with all tasks differentiated to enable inclusivity for all students, whether they have prior musical experience or not, and likewise, whether they have individual learning needs.

The model set out in the National Curriculum provides the basis for the schemes of work and we are always looking for topics to integrate if we feel they will benefit the students' enjoyment of the subject. The key musical elements are taught through a range of topics, including Brazilian Samba; Keyboard techniques; Folk Music; African rhythms; Tones and Semitones; Blues and Jazz; Caribbean styles; Musical Theatre; Minimalism; Theme and Variation form and Film Music. Many of these ideas will feed into the GCSE areas of study. Students will have the opportunity to develop their singing skills as well as improving on the keyboard, guitar, bass guitar and drum kit, alongside the peripatetic aspect previously outlined. In year 9 they spend more time developing their awareness of music technology on the computer, working on both GarageBand and Musescore. This supports those that are looking to continue to GCSE and beyond.

We have large numbers for both GCSE and AS/A level music, for which we make use of the Eduqas exam board. In both KS4 and KS5 the courses are weighted 60:40 towards the practical work, so students who have worked hard on the KS3 course should all have the capability of completing the GCSE course.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

As mentioned in the previous category, every year 7 and 8 student is awarded the opportunity to learn an instrument for free during their timetabled music class. That means that 300 students have this chance every year. This could be violin, viola, cello, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, guitar, bass guitar, drum kit, saxophone or clarinet, depending on which day they have their music class.

We also have 13 visiting peripatetic staff teaching a range of instruments and we have a large number of students who pay to receive individual lessons throughout the week.

In terms of extra-curricular ensembles, students can join the choir (two rehearsals each week), the orchestra, training orchestra, soul band, folk ensemble, or sign up for a weekly Grade 5 music theory session. These ensembles are well attended and across the average year there are between 15-20 different concerts and trips involving most of these ensembles. Students are all permitted to make use of the practice rooms in the department for their own personal musical use.

We are also one of very few schools to offer a Japanese Taiko drumming session, run by one of the foremost Taiko instructors in the UK, which takes place every Wednesday and is available to all students in the school should they wish to attend.

The department also runs a rock music club called 'Bandmaker', which puts together rock ensembles consisting of year 7-10 students and gets them working together to produce their own songs, as well as cover versions. There are regular performances by these groups across the academic year.

House Music is one of the highest profile events in the school calendar, consisting of eight musical categories, both solo and ensemble in nature. On average, well over half of the school get involved in some way, whether it is the large choirs, rock bands or orchestral ensemble categories and this is a great way for the department to showcase the high level of musical talent within the school.

Each year the department also produces a major show, involving between 50-90 students on average. Recent ones have included Grease, Les Miserables and Return to the Forbidden Planet. These are extremely high profile events run to a professional standard and involving multiple weekend rehearsals to ensure the highest possible standard. There are also many Taiko events that take place on Saturdays throughout the year.

When possible, we are happy to loan instruments to students who are not in a position to purchase one themselves, especially over the summer holiday, when the instruments are not being used. We have a departmental website, on which are many of the pieces the students will have worked on throughout the school year, so they can continue to build on their skills away from the classroom.

We are very proud of our extra-curricular provision and the students involved are fantastic to work with. We are always looking to collaborate with other schools and have included players and singers from several other establishments in our own groups, as well as teaming up with them for various concerts and local events.

It is free to join any of our extra-curricular groups except 'Bandmaker', which has a small fee due to the fact that we need to pay an external teacher who runs the group. Music should be inclusive and available to all and the fact that we are able to give free instrumental tuition to so many of our students is something of which we are very proud.

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

In an average year, we will organise and participate in the following events.....

1. New students concert (for all year 7, 12 and other years who are new to the school to show their musical prowess)
2. Musician of the year (a contest to see who will represent the school at the Haberdashers' Musician of the Year)
3. Remembrance assembly (choir and bugler)
4. Community Carol Service (a collaboration with other local schools in the church)
5. Christmas Service (our own service the local church)
6. Christmas Assembly
7. Year 7 Curriculum evening (to demonstrate the year 7 instrumental work from their timetabled music lessons)
8. Bandmaker Christmas event (to show their first term of pieces)
9. Musician of the Year (our top musician head to London to perform at Haberdashers' Hall)
10. House Music (a whole school event featuring eight musical categories)
11. Haberdashers' Music Festival (a bus of 50+ students head to London to perform in the Guildhall theatre with the other Haberdashers' schools)
12. Charity Concert (featuring all our ensembles to raise money for Cottage Care – a local charity for dementia patients)
13. Spring Concert (a showcase of all our ensembles before the older students leave for exam study)
14. Year 7 Curriculum evening 2 (the other half of the classes perform)
15. GCSE/AS/A Level performance evening (to prepare them for their performance exams)
16. Production Camp (a weekend rehearsal for the school production)
17. Music Colours Evening (awards evening for those who have performed above and beyond for the music department across the year)
18. The Show (a full week of dress rehearsals and four performance evenings for the school production)
19. Outreach (performances in local primary schools)
20. The Hamilton Concert (a summer concert to end the year on a high)
21. Celebration Assembly (music for the final assembly of the year)

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

I feel happy with the number of opportunities we currently provide for our students, but nonetheless we are always looking to improve and develop their musical skills. At present we are looking to develop the provision of composition within the department. We have some decent equipment but currently lack the ability for students to play music directly into the computers, which would be a huge help for some of our more instinctive but less notation-led students.

The next step with some of the ensembles is to take them to the next level of performance, potentially tackling some more weighty orchestral works with the orchestra and introducing SATB choir parts more consistently, now the choir are fairly secure with 2-3 part pieces.

I would also like to continue to build on the collaborative theme we have started within the community, with more outreach sessions with the local primary schools, which are immensely rewarding for all concerned. Our near neighbours at NGHS, Burton Borough and Abraham Darby school have all worked with us in some way or other and it would be great to do more of this, to really foster the idea of music as a collaborative subject, rather than something to be competitive about.

Further information (optional)

We are not part of the local music hub, although some of our peripatetic staff do work within the music services too. However, we aim to join in with events within the music service remit where possible (Charltonbury for example – a rock festival our groups attended last year) so we are always keeping an ear out for opportunities to get involved.