

Music development plan summary: The Canterbury Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	June 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Andy Freeman
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Laura Caroleo (DoTL Performing Arts) Angela Banbery (Senior Vice Principal)
Name of local music hub	Kent Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Water Bear College of Music

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.

Every Key Stage 3 pupil studies music for one hour per week throughout Years 7 and 8, after which curriculum music becomes optional. The topics delivered in these first two years cover skills in interpreting different forms of written music, including treble and bass clef staff notation, composing to different briefs and listening to and appraising the features of a variety of heard music. Students access and explore these vital elements of music through a range of topics, genres, styles and traditions such as blues, reggae, world music, electronic dance, the orchestra, chords, folk song and music for film and TV.

Key Stage 3 pupils also learn specific techniques for piano, guitar and singing during their weekly music classes. Those with a desire to take the subject further during class time are able to sign up for a music 'pillar' lesson once a week where they can explore

musical language and skills with other like-minded young musicians and singers, as well as enjoying playing together in small ensembles and rock bands. Year 9 then builds upon prior knowledge in preparation for the rigour of GCSE study.

These links will direct you to the relevant sections of our website for information on our [Key Stage 4](#) and [Key Stage 5](#) music provision.

In addition to strong links with Kent Music, our local music hub, we have a partnership with Water Bear College of Music for our Academy programme in the 6th form. This provides our BTEC students with trips to their Brighton campus as well as annual return visits by Water Bear lecturers to deliver workshops and careers seminars.

Part B: Co-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.

Extra-curricular music is an essential part of any student's learning journey at the Canterbury Academy. New skills are gained, new friendships formed and a life-long love of music is fostered through these experiences, not to mention the building of confidence both as a performer and a person. Students of all ages and abilities are welcome to join our lunch time and after school clubs, which include:

- Choir
- Rock/pop bands
- String ensemble
- Woodwind ensemble
- Orchestra
- Guitar group
- Music tech club

Through our link with Kent Music, we are able to organise hiring instruments for pupils so parents can be sure of their child's interest and progress levels before committing to purchasing their own one, should they wish to.

We employ seven visiting peripatetic staff to provide our students with both individual and small group lessons in the following instruments:

- Drums
- Piano/keyboard
- Violin
- Flute
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Singing

- Guitar
- Bass guitar

Our individual lessons are for 20 minutes each week, timetabled during the normal school day, at a cost of £100 for two terms. Students can therefore sign up in September, January and after the Easter break. For students on our Selective Music and Performing Arts Scheme, we are committed to subsidising one instrument per pupil so that the cost to parents is reduced by 50% to only £50 per two terms.

For any parents seeking help with the funding of these lessons for their child, we recommend applying to Kent Music's [Financial Assistance Scheme](#).

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.

We provide workshops and shows both outside school and from visiting musicians and composers in our own spaces. In the academic year 2023-24 we were involved in some inspiring projects, such as one with English Touring Opera in which GCSE music students worked with members of the cast of *The Rake's Progress* to compose and perform new music and singing for the opera. In 2024-25 we are planning for pupils to take part in a new film music project at the Malthouse Theatre, building on the success of the modern sound installation our youngsters created at Chatham Dockyard previously. We use Pupil Premium funding to ensure that valuable extra-curricular experiences such as concert trips and workshops are available to all.

Our students perform regularly at school open evenings, festivals and awards ceremonies and in our Key Stage 3 and 4 show (March 2025) and very popular annual Key Stage 5 showcase (May 2025). Every Spring our students perform at a public charity event in Fordwich, Canterbury and, in July each year, they form a pit band to take part in our whole school musical at the local Gulbenkian Theatre.

The Head of Music uses his contacts in the local live music scene to obtain support slots for the most able school bands and has also organised for some highly talented and ambitious 6th form students to deputise in established adult bands, earning themselves vital experience, and payment, in doing so.

In October 2024 our young musicians and vocalists will hold a joint concert in our school hall with the Snowdown Colliery Male Voice Choir, in a recently formed partnership that saw a selection of our performers appear with the choir at The Cornerstone Centre, Folkestone, in April 2024.

In the future

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

We aim to increase the number of professional performances children in all years can attend as part of their broader music experience with us.

We aim to upgrade and improve equipment and facilities in our recording studio.

We aim to start a professional functions band to give our most talented students the chance to earn money together from performing and to make links with local promoters and agencies.

We very much look forward to developing musical relationships with our partners in the new Canterbury Trust family of schools.

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

The website for our local music hub [Kent Music](#) also features useful information, including how to make an application to their Financial Assistance Scheme for subsidised peripatetic music lessons and instrument hire while studying at school.