

Music Department Development Plan

Part A: Curriculum Music

<p>Overview <u>School's Curriculum for Music</u></p>	<p><u>KS3</u> The curriculum in yr9 is formed using the Musical Futures approach, which enables students to develop their instrumental and appraising skills through an explorative, practical approach. Music lessons are once per fortnight, but classes have, generally, under 20 students, meaning that tuition can be more focused. Students learn how to play the ukulele, guitar and keyboard, along with key terminology and skills associated with each of these instruments. Lessons incorporate notation appropriate to the instrument e.g., treble and bass clef for piano, along with chord diagrams and tablature for guitar and ukulele. <i>Vandyke Upper School is an upper school and our KS3 begins from yr9.</i></p> <p><u>KS4</u> Students at our school study the BTEC Music Practice course, which furthers their skills in performance, composition, music production and appraising. The main thread that is woven throughout the course is their knowledge of music genres and the features that typify these styles. Students are then taught how to embed this knowledge and apply it to performances, compositions and music production portfolios.</p> <p><u>KS5</u> The RSL Music Practitioners Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma is the course studied at KS5. Students focus on six units that further their knowledge from the KS4 BTEC Music Practice course, which link more closely to the music industry. Students learn how to create their own radio show/podcast, create a live performance-based music video, perform in a themed event, create a studio recording and compose songs in contrasting genres.</p> <p>Our music courses at each key stage are accessible and inclusive for students with SEND or a disability. The school receives regular training in these areas and are now well-practised in using the 'Graduated Approach' to enable all learners the opportunity to succeed. Students with SEND have teaching assistants with them in lessons to ensure they can fully access the same curriculum as others.</p>
<p>Singing:</p>	<p>Singing can be undertaken through private lessons with a peripatetic teacher at any age in our school. Singing is more prominent at KS4 and KS5 in our courses, where students feel more confident to sing in front of others. Both music teachers are singers and therefore students are exposed to singing very regularly in this regard. Embedding more class singing into the yr9 programme is something that we would like to achieve in the future, once barriers to self-confidence have been overcome.</p>
<p>Instrumental Music:</p>	<p>Whole class tuition is the main focus of our curriculum within KS3. Students learn how to play the ukulele, guitar and keyboard, which is taught through whole class songs. Students regularly play instruments in lesson times in KS4 and KS5, as it is expected that they specialise in at least one instrument. Students are required to develop performances, compositions and studio projects using their instrument.</p>
<p>Technology:</p>	<p>Music technology is embedded into all key stages; in year 9, students first use cloud-based software, Bandlab, to drag and drop loops to make a composition. This is extended at the end of the year, where they are required to replicate a pop song using Cubase in order to create a multi-track recording using their</p>

	instrumental skills. At KS4 and KS5, students use Cubase to record their original compositions, create a radio show/podcast and make studio recordings.
Opportunities for Live Music:	There are lots of opportunities for students to perform at our school. We have our annual school production of a musical theatre show, where students act, sing and dance as soloists and part of an ensemble; our music department also include a pit band to accompany the onstage actors. Students perform during KS3 lessons to show their achievements. Students in KS4 and KS5 regularly perform during lesson time, but this is also extended to music showcases and concerts that family and friends can attend. Music performances form a key role within wider school events such as, DofE awards evenings, year group awards evenings and open evenings. Students also receive opportunities to perform at local events such as the Bedfordshire Battle of the Bands and local town firework displays.
Maintenance:	<p>We employ a music technician in the department for five hours each week, whose role is to repair instruments and equipment, as well as PAT test them for safety. Pupil premium students can also bring in their instruments to have them fixed by our technician to ensure they have access to a working instrument.</p> <p>The department is well-resourced with a wide range of instruments and due to the effectiveness of our music technician, all of our equipment works properly. There is enough equipment for all students across key stages to use instruments during lessons and social times.</p>

Part B: Extra-Curricular Music

Music Tuition:	Private and small group tuition is offered as part of our music programme at Vandyke Upper School. We have instrumental teachers available for: singing, drums, piano, cello and double bass, flute and clarinet, guitar, brass, violin and viola. We fund (up to twelve) pupil premium students each academic year, as we pay for the full cost of lessons. As a department, we also lend students instruments if they do not have one at home to practise on.
Ensembles / music-making:	<p>Students can join the annual school production if they enjoy singing, acting and/or dancing. Our practice rooms are open every break and lunch time for students to book and make music with their friends. This allows them to make music freely, but also to work on class-based projects in their own time.</p> <p>We offer catch-up times after school and some lunchtimes for students to have access to music software and resources if they have missed a lesson through absence.</p>
Rehearsal Spaces:	We have five practice rooms, which each have a digital piano, 4/5 rooms include a full drum kit and 3/5 rooms have a bass amp. We have two large music rooms for classroom teaching, which are both equipped with 20-23 computers – all of these have Cubase music software and an audio interface, so that students can record.
Local Music Hub:	<p>Our department works with the local Central Bedfordshire music hub, Inspiring Music, who inform us about resources, music-specific CPD and are also the provider of some of our peripatetic music teachers. They host the annual Battle of the Bands competition that our school has been involved in for ten years. Inspiring Music also host a Saturday morning music school for several hours, which our students and students from neighbouring schools can participate in.</p> <p>The department regularly meets with other local music departments as part of <i>'Middle School Liaisons'</i> to discuss the progression from year 8 to year 9.</p>
Awards:	Every week we award a student(s) with <i>'In the Spotlight'</i> , which recognises their effort levels and/or achievements within classroom music lessons. This award is written in the whole school bulletin, so that the student's achievement is recognised on a larger scale. At the end of an academic year, each <i>In the Spotlight</i> award winner is entered into a draw to win a voucher.

Part C: Musical Experiences

Musical experiences:	<p>We hold our annual school production of a musical theatre show, which is in collaboration with our Drama department. It is an inclusive experience and as long as students show interest in participating, sign up and commit to the weekly rehearsals, they will be a part of the show. The school production is always open to every year group to get involved.</p> <p>Each year we hold a KS5 show as part of the RSL Music Practitioners course, where students are given a theme and have to form repertoire to suit it. Parents/carers and students' friends are invited to the event as audience members. This event is solely for Year 13 students in the Commercial Music class, but band members may also include those in younger year groups if they play an instrument that the band require. Entry to the events is generally £1 in order for us to maintain equipment. Pupil premium students are not charged and neither are students who are studying music as an option subject – this is to encourage greater attendance. The Central Bedfordshire hub host the annual Battle of the Bands contest, where bands from KS4/5 compete. Bands are required to perform two stylistically contrasting songs. The event is open to anyone, as it is held at the prestigious music venue, The Stables. We advertise for student involvement by creating posters to display in the department – if there are lots of students who show an interest and want to form a band, we host our own internal battle of the bands contest in order to select a band to represent our school.</p> <p>Students are also selected each year to perform in year group awards evenings, where their excellent attitude, effort and attainment is celebrated in a prestigious event. Parents/carers are also personally invited to attend the free event. The performing students are selected from our music option classes and we try to choose a varied mix, as well as selecting different performers each year.</p> <p>Students also perform in the reception area of our school during our annual Open Evening event, which invites prospective year 8 students and parents/carers to visit. These students perform on rotation in the reception area in order to provide entertainment for visitors.</p> <p>Bands can also perform in leavers' events, such as the annual Year 13 leavers' show, where we celebrate the musicianship in our department cohorts.</p>
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In the future

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incorporate more formal appraising activities in the year 9 curriculum to enable students to develop knowledge of a wider range of key terminology.• Improve uptake of peripatetic instrument lessons and ensure stronger commitment and ambition from these students.• Develop career programme, so that students have a securer understanding of whether music courses can lead to in the future e.g., invite in alumni music students as guest speakers, contact industry experts to provide talks.• Include more music-based trips into the music curriculum e.g., concerts, performing arts career days.
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