

Music development plan summary: Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr I. Maynard
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs A. Baird
Name of local music hub	Essex Music Education Hub

This plan shows how high-quality music making and an enriching curriculum is achieved at Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. Moreover, this plan demonstrates the co-curricular music provision which enriches the ensemble skills and musical experiences of our students.

Part A: Curriculum music

Key Stage 3

Year 7 students focus on understanding the key concepts of listening, composing and performing. Throughout the year students will study key topics to enhance these skills such as; What is music? Keyboard skills, STOMP, Minimalism, Music of Africa and Musicals. Year 8 students focus on developing skills such as listening, composing and performing to the next level. Throughout the year topics that will develop this are; Impressionism, Rock, Film Music, Theme and Variation, The Blues and Popular Music. In music, timetable allocation will be aligned with the other creative curriculum areas in the school. All parts of the curriculum are intertwined with the central teachings of our Catholic Ethos which is proudly represented through all aspects in music.

Key Stage 4

Year 9 students begin the GCSE music Eduqas course, and we focus again on building creativity in listening and appraising skills, composing to a high level and delivering exceptional solo and ensemble performances. The course dictates students cover a range of topics that will enhance both their knowledge and practical skills. These topics include; Music for Ensemble, Forms and Devices, Music for Film and Popular Music.

Year 10 students, consolidate their learning of the GCSE Music course, which gives time to focus on composition and performance coursework.

Year 11 is treated as a 'mastery year' where students begin to develop their skills for Sixth Form study. Students will continue to work on their appraising, composing and performing whilst considering how this reflects post 16 standards of work. Furthermore, students will have regular assessments throughout the year to help support their final exam in June.

Key Stage 5

Year 12 and 13 students commence their study of the A Level Music Eduqas course, and students will be strengthened and challenged on their pre-conceptions on appraisal, performance and composition. All students will study a range of topics such as: The Classical Symphony, Pop and Rock Music and Musicals. Students not only develop their skills in lesson, but also in their super-curricular activities beyond the classroom.

Inclusivity

From Year 7 to Year 13 all students are extensively supported in their studies through differentiation and inclusivity. In terms of music, work is extensively differentiated for pupils to not only support them but also to stretch and challenge them. In music, strategies are implemented to support students in all skills learned in music.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Alongside the high-quality provision of music education in the classroom, our co-curriculum also offers high quality teaching of instruments through instrumental teachers. Moreover, outside of lesson time there are a range of choirs and ensembles that students can join and participate in to improve their own instrumental and ensemble skills. These ensembles consist of Chamber Choir, String Orchestra, Wind Band.

Furthermore, support on piano, keyboard, djembes, guitars, classical and pop-styled instruments is also given to all students in lessons. Students are given many opportunities to perform with these instruments and to also in special circumstances offer tuition as a subsidised fee.

Students are given many different opportunities of performing in studio and practice room spaces to amplify their musicianship skills. The practice rooms and studio spaces, enable students to focus on high-quality performance practice, this massively helps in assessment and graded performance practice.

In addition to the co-curricular in music, funding greatly helps in enhancing the musical experiences of our students in trips and workshops. The Universal Music Sound UK Foundation are an institution we work closely with in organising trips to London and Essex to increase the level of musical experiences our students will embrace during their musical education.

Part C: Musical experiences

Students have an enriched music experience both inside and outside of the classroom. Students throughout the year will be expected to take part in singing and performing in assemblies, musical performances at Christmas and in the summertime, plus multiple opportunities for chamber concerts throughout the year. In addition, there are trips at Key Stage 3, GCSE and A Level for students to appreciate music making in a professional music setting.

Students who enter in Year 7 are given the opportunity to present themselves as a music place. In the school 10% of students will be gifted a music place, this leads to them representing the school on array of events such as concerts, assemblies and prize-giving evenings. The places are determined on high level performances in the aural musical assessment and performance assessment.

Students show their involvement in concerts by performing with the Chamber Choir, String Orchestra and variety of other ensembles which are run at the school to push student excellence. All students who have opted for GCSE music will be strongly pushed to be involved in all ensembles to push their own musicianship skills and cultural capital.

All events are keeping to the school's tradition of being charged fairly. With events such as our Chamber Concerts, there is no fee and students are very much welcomed to bring family to showcase high levels of performance.

In the future

In terms of the future, the music department will continue to strive to make musical opportunities welcoming and of the highest standard for students to participate in. Improvements to be made, however, are to the continued development of already established groups such as Chamber Choir, Gospel Choir, String Orchestra and Wind Band. In addition, improvements will be made to student involvement in ensembles and how they are making themselves much more visible in these ensembles.

The music department at the Brentwood Ursuline, aims to be the beacon of high-quality music making in all aspects of the school's identity. One particularly addition, will be the teaching and learning of musical instruments, this will enable students to be much more active in extra-curricular ensembles active inside and outside the school's timetable.

Specifically in the future, music places students will be regularly given opportunities to perform at chamber concert evenings throughout the year. At assemblies, students will be regularly performing to showcase their musical talents to compliment the theme of the assembly and through their performance, which will enhance the Catholic ethos of the school. At prize-giving evenings, students will be regularly performing to a high standard from musicals to classical pieces.

At awards evenings students will also be performing from across the Key Stages to represent the school's musical high standards. Finally, students will be actively involved in the music making during liturgies. Students will be engaging themselves with scripture and music to enhance the liturgy for all students.