

# Music development plan summary: *Hanley Castle High School*

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 - 2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	August 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr James Felton
Name of local music hub	Severn Arts

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.

Music is one of the only activities that activates, stimulates and uses the entire brain. Throughout our KS3 music curriculum students experience an eclectic mix of stimulating challenges that give them a hunger for musical knowledge and transferable skills. Paramount to our philosophy is the enjoyment of music. This enjoyment leads to engagement in the rich variety of topics that make up the KS3 curriculum, ultimately resulting in substantial progress for all students over the 2 years.

Key Stage 3 students receive 2 hours of curriculum music over the fortnightly timetable. They develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of the three main musical disciplines (performing, composing and appraising) in all of the topics listed below. The Music Department is extremely lucky to possess a huge variety of musical resources (instrumental and technological) in the delivery of these topics. 100% of students embark on the exciting curriculum throughout Key Stage 3. The music teachers work closely with our learning support assistants and provide students with differing levels of support to ensure that everyone achieves regardless of their background. It is the aim that any student may continue their musical education beyond Year 8 if they desire. Learning an instrument outside of the curriculum time is NOT a prerequisite for opting for GCSE music or BTEC Level 2 music technology.

### **Year 7**

Rhythm and working together  
The Keyboard and notation  
Music for Animals and MIRTH  
Music that tells a story (William Tell)  
Guitar scheme 1  
Gamelan and Minimalism

### **Year 8**

Music for Space  
Film and Advert Music  
Primary Chords 1  
Primary Chords 2  
Guitar Scheme 2  
Popular Music / Dance Music

### **Year 9-11 GCSE Music and NCFE Music Technology**

The 3-year Key Stage 4 allows students who have opted for either GCSE or NCFE Music Technology to deepen their knowledge, skills and understanding. They receive 4 hours of curriculum lessons across the fortnightly timetable. All department computers are equipped with Sibelius 7 and Cubase Elements 9.5. With the incredible resources, staff deliver a structured curriculum that encourages independent compositional styles to be developed in both Music and Music Technology. Topics are varied in each half term to meet the appraising demands of each specification. There are performance lessons built into curriculum along with opportunities to perform in a full calendar of performance evenings.

### **Year 12-13**

Hanley Castle High School is dedicated to running both A Level Music and BTEC Level 3 Music Technology. Secondary school numbers in these subjects are generally low and, in many cases, schools will not run these course as they are just not financially viable. This is not the case at HCHS! The school understands the value that these courses bring to the individuals that take the qualifications but also the value they bring to the whole school and wider community. Students receive 8 hours of curriculum lessons across the fortnightly timetable.

## 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.

Hanley Castle High School is proud to be providing instrumental lessons for students throughout the academic year. The department currently provides tuition for the following instruments in 2 purpose built teaching / rehearsal rooms. Students who opt for a musical subject at Key Stage 4 and 5 currently receive a 20% subsidy towards the cost of their in-school instrumental music tuition. Additionally, pupil premium funding is also available for those that qualify for these payments. These ordinarily cover 50% of paired tuition costs.

<b>Brass</b>	<b>Drums</b>
<b>Flute</b>	<b>Guitar</b>
<b>Violin</b>	<b>Piano</b>
<b>Clarinet</b>	<b>Saxophone</b>
<b>Electric Keyboard</b>	<b>Voice</b>

**Other instruments may be available on request.**

Generic terms and conditions:

- Students are taught individually, in pairs or trios (where available) based on a rotational timetable.
- Students receive a 25-minute music lesson during the school day each week.
- Students are unlikely to miss the same 25 minutes for a subject more than once each half of term as the timetable rotates.
- Timetables are distributed via Epraise during the first 2 weeks of the school year or the first week of a new academic term.
- Timetables are displayed in the Music Department as well as Epraise.
- Students are responsible for turning up to their lessons on time.

There are typically between **10-12 lesson slots available in each term**. The cost can be viewed by following this live link: [Tuition letter signup.docx](#)

- Bills are sent to the fee payer prior to the start of each term.
- Individual teachers will let you know about their payment terms and conditions. Failure to pay by the date required on the invoice will result in a student being removed from a tuition list.
- Payment plans (if required) will need to be arranged with individual teachers.
- A full half term's notice is necessary for cancellation of lessons – charges are made for late notice.
- Refunds due to pupil absence are unfortunately unavailable.
- Paired and trio lessons will be given where appropriate students can be grouped together. If appropriate groups are not available, you will be notified about the new increased billing arrangements.
- Charges are subject to change if pairs or trios change during a term.

- Individual teachers will let you know about their preferred method of payment.

**Hanley Castle High School Music Department – Ensembles**  
**Department staff run a full and varied programme of co-curricular activities throughout the academic calendar.**

**The current timetable is as follows:**

- Tuesday Break B – Guitar Club
- Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30 - Swing Band
- Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30 - Orchestra
- Thursday Break B – Whole School Choir
- Thursday 3.30 – 4.30 - Music Academy for aspiring Rock Bands and Popular Music artists

## **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.

Calendar of events:

October – 6<sup>th</sup> Form Soiree – featuring solos by our A Level Musicians

November – GCSE solo performance recitals

December – Carol Service and Christmas Cracker featuring Orchestra, Swing Band, Music Academy, Choir and a variety of soloists

February – Senior Music Festival – featuring solos and ensembles by our GCSE students along with Orchestra, Swing Band, Music Academy and Choir

February – Hanley's Got Talent (College competition)

March – GCSE ensemble performance recitals

April – A Level performance recitals

June – Junior Music Festival featuring Key Stage 3 soloists and Orchestra, Swing Band, Music Academy and Choir

June – Swing Band performance at the Upton Jazz Festival

### Trips:

There are regular trips to the theatre. Most recently Blood Brothers in 2023 / 2024. There is also an annual music technology trip to the RSC to learn about managing a sound rig. The Department's contact at the RCS gives the students an all access tour of backstage and a working insight into running large scale productions. If the school is to embark on a whole school musical production, the Music Department, along with the Drama Department, would like to take the cast to see a West End Production. This has happened on numerous occasions in the past.

## In the future

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

- The Music Department will continue to offer high-quality musical education across the Key Stages. Staff will work closely with feeder primaries along with networking with other local secondary schools.
- 2 former Hanley students are now Heads of Music in a Worcestershire and Gloucestershire secondary school. Department Staff will continue to be in regular contact with colleagues in Tewkesbury, Pershore, Evesham and Cheltenham.
- Department Staff would like to work closely with Severn Arts and the feeder primary schools with a focus on stimulating more interest in instrumental playing from an earlier age. FAME (First Access Music Education) is a great starting point. Oak trees grow from acorns!
- Department Staff would like to explore the possibility of more diverse co-curricular musical activities. Appreciating and performing music from different cultures and traditions will broaden the musical experiences for our students. It would be wonderful to have a group such as the Hanley Castle Samba Band performing exciting rhythms, creating a carnival type atmosphere at events like Sports Day as well as in the more traditional concert environment.
- The calendar of events in school is full and varied but staff would like to look at the possibility of performing as part of the Cheltenham Jazz Festival in May.
- Whole School productions have previously brought a sense of community to the school. The teamwork and dedication that students display in their pursuit of excellence in large scale productions remains the pinnacle of achievements in Performing Arts at Hanley Castle High School. Since the pandemic, questions have been left unanswered regarding the viability of such a venture taking place again. Discussions are taking place so that the Performing Arts Faculty may once again consider embarking on another whole school production. There is certainly an appetite as students and staff are keen to revitalise the school's rich traditions of biennial musical productions. The current team have previously

produced: We Will Rock You, Grease, Our House, School of Rock and Made in Dagenham.