



Music development plan summary: The Marlborough Science Academy

The document below outlines the Music development plan for The Marlborough Science Academy for the academic year 2024-2025. This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students across curricular and extracurricular music. This information is to help students and parents and carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students' music education.

Should you have any further questions with regard to the plan please do not hesitate to email me: e.felkers@marlborough.herts.sch.uk

I am proud to work at Marlborough along with our extended music team, working to help our students build a lifelong love of music, whatever that might look like in the future.

Yours musically,

Mr Felkers
Head of Music

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	January 2025 then termly throughout the year
Name of the school music lead	Mr Felkers
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	





Part A: Curriculum music

As a school we deliver high-quality provision in curricular music across KS3 and KS4. Our KS3 curriculum has been revised to ensure to include the key features of the [national plan for music education](#). Our school music curriculum is also informed by the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021), which is a piece of non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3. As a school we are proud that our curriculum includes 2 hours of KS3 music over a fortnightly timetable. This allows for the music department to plan 6, 7 or 8-week Schemes of Work (SOWs), depending on the half term. During lessons we give access to group music making experiences across a range of instruments, and voice. We have a specialist music room which contains a suite of iMac computers and keyboards. In addition, the department has three practice rooms. The music department is very well stocked with a grand piano, thirty guitars, thirty ukuleles, three upright pianos, a modest stock of orchestral instruments, classroom percussion, and excellent instruments and resources for aspiring Rock and Pop musicians.

We offer instrumental lessons in:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Acoustic Guitar
- Electric Guitar
- Bass Guitar
- Drum-kit
- Keyboard
- Piano

The KS3 curriculum is scaffolded so that prior learning is built upon lesson by lesson but also topic by topic, so students not only broaden their skill sets by trying new instruments but also deepen their musical learning and abilities by developing specific skills. KS3 home learning is set on a fortnightly basis.

The KS4 curriculum includes 5 hours of music teaching over a fortnightly timetable for students who choose to take Music at GCSE. We follow the [Eduqas GCSE Music](#) course.

Across all KS4 pathways students engage with performance, creation and production skills but are able to 'specialize' within the realms of the courses on a specific instrument, voice or via performance or production outlets. All KS4 pathways allow for progression to KS5 to pursue musical learning at a higher level at both vocational and A level.





The KS4 curriculum is developed in-line with course requirements, but also so that prior learning is built upon. Planning is adapted on a lesson-by-lesson basis to suit the needs of the learners, and this planning is judged and assessed by the classroom teachers based on learning outcomes. This is discussed with students in lessons. Home Learning is weekly and is set on Edulink.

Please click below to link directly to our KS3 and KS4 curriculum overviews which detail specific schemes of learning and example repertoire per scheme:

[Music at The Marlborough Science Academy](#)

Students with pupil premium status are given first priority on instrument use and teacher support. There is more information on how we support students with pupil premium status in part B of this document. Students who take GCSE qualify for a 50% subsidy for their instrument lessons, which is covered by the school.

All students enjoy live music at least once a year; this can include attending the school show or the charity review.

Part B: Extra-curricular music – Music Tuition, Choirs and Ensembles

As mentioned in Section A, we relish our partnership with the Hertfordshire Music Hub as they deliver inspirational workshops and opportunities for our young people to thrive in music.

The support that the Hertfordshire Music Hub gives the school in terms of our peripatetic music provision is outstanding. The standard of teachers is of the highest quality; they are vetted through rigorous application. This is evident in how much our students enjoy their instrumental lessons, which in time is shown through the excellent data obtained in our KS4 results.

As a school we are proud that we give access to peripatetic lessons across a range of instruments and for voice. This is through the hub through which we currently have teachers for piano, drum kit, woodwind (saxophone, clarinet and flute), and guitar (acoustic, electric and bass). We have the ability to teach any instrument a student desires via the hub when it is requested. Students are able to play for fun or with more academic rigor. Some students learn aurally, using YouTube tutorials as guidance, whilst others learn by ear with music notation. This learning journey is decided through a discussion with parents, teachers and students for what best suits each child. We are really proud of the high level of communication that we have in place. When appropriate, students are entered for graded music exams via the Associated Board of the Royal





Schools of Music (ABRSM), Trinity or Rock School London (RSL). Students are able to have one-to-one lessons, or opt for small or larger group tuition, depending on individual student need and preference. The fees vary depending on how many students are in a lesson, and the length of lesson chosen by the parent. All of the fees can be found on the [Hertfordshire Music Hub](#) website. Where possible, students can take an instrument on loan from the school.

Students who have pupil premium status are often entitled to subsidised music tuition. This includes students who receive Free School Meals, have a parent who is in receipt of disability allowance or have a parent who is currently serving in the armed forces. These subsidised lessons are easy to access. Parents sign up like any other and tick a box upon completion of the paperwork (which asks if your child has any of these 3 pupil premium statuses). The school happily assists any parent or carer who has a child with pupil premium status to sign up for lessons where help is needed.

Our Music Clubs run every day during lunch and have always been excellently attended by students across the school. All students participate enthusiastically and with excellent, developing musicianship. Our current musical production (Grease) rehearses during lunch, after school, and during school holidays/weekends. All of our school clubs are free of charge. Our school ensembles include:

- School Choir
- Jazz Band
- Musical Production Cast / Chorus (Year 7-10)
- Student led rock bands across KS3 and KS4 (students organise themselves into bands and are able to practice at lunch and after school using the school music practice rooms).
- Music Production
- Guitar and Piano clubs are being planned for the future.

We open practice spaces regularly for students to continue the practical work started in the classroom to give room for further improvement. This regular availability supports individual and small group rehearsal on any instrument and for voice. The practice spaces also allow for the nurture of independently formed rock bands. These groups go on to perform in front of their peers at our charity reviews, music festivals and Open Evenings. Some will go on to participate in competitions, such as The Battle of The Bands, or at the Marlborough M Festival.





Part C: Musical experiences, events and performances.

Our school groups perform internally and externally on a regular basis as outlined in the table below.

Music Calendar and Plan 2024 – 2025

Month	Performance Opportunity	Students that are usually involved (participating or members of the audience)
September	Open Evening (In school event)	Students participating in performance for Open Evening. Students are both participants and audience members during music performances in assembly.
October	School Production	Students continue school production (Grease) rehearsals.
November	School Production Christmas Concert	Students continue school production (Grease) rehearsals. Students start preparing for the Christmas Concert
December	School Production Christmas Concert Christmas School Lunch	Students perform the school production (Grease) including a performance for local primary schools along with evening performances. Selected voices, bands, and jazz sing and perform in a Christmas concert for the school. Remainder of students participate as audience members. Selected soloists/instrumentalists, bands and choir provide background music at the school Christmas lunch.
January		
February		





March	World Theatre Day performance M Festival Auditions	Performance for World Theatre Day in collaboration with the Drama department. Music ensembles perform. Auditions for students to perform at the M Festival (soloists, groups, rock bands etc.).
April	M Festival Performance Evening	Students selected to perform at M Festival perform at a Performance Evening.
May		
June		
July	M Festival	Musical festival held on the school premises during which the auditioned ensembles/performers perform. Students and extended school community participate as audience members.

When a music event or trip is open to parents or carers to attend, an online information letter is sent home via our parent gateway. If parents are not able to access these forms a paper copy can be requested. The letter will detail whether an event or trip is ticketed, seated or just a 'turn up' occasion. It will also explain if an event or a trip is free of charge or includes a fee/donation and how to pay this via gateway. Students with pupil premium status receive discounts or fully funded places on trips, and have lunch provided if they are out of school for an event or trip.





In the future

We continually build on and develop our music plan each academic year. We will continue to maintain our high-quality music provision, for example maintaining the amount of time students are able to access timetabled music lessons. We may introduce the teaching of new instruments in the future and will continue with our termly and frequent performances. In subsequent years there will be further performance opportunities as we continue to work with the Hertfordshire Music Hub, as well as at events at county level, and reap benefits from the workshops and events they provide. The curriculum is amended as necessary, to ensure teaching practice and materials are as up to date as possible. Extracurricular experiences will continue to include annual or bi-annual school productions.

We plan to maintain our strong musical links with feeder primary schools, build on these where possible and continue with workshop planning that occurs in school for both KS3 and KS4 students during the academic calendar.

We are also keen to increase the number of students taking part in extracurricular music, both in a formal and informal way, and in particular to increase the number of disadvantaged students participating in these. Linked to this, increasing the number of disadvantaged students learning instruments in school is another important goal.

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 Hertfordshire Music Hub's plan for music education should be available on their [website](#).

