

Music development plan summary: Horizon Community College

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Miss A Lingard
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Barnsley Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

Curriculum Structure and Design

The music curriculum at Horizon Community College is guided by the *Model Music Curriculum*, with a particular focus on enabling students to master a smaller selection of instruments to a higher standard. This approach ensures students build deep proficiency and confidence in their musical skills.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

- In Key Stage 3, music lessons are delivered on a rotational basis, with opportunities to practice these skills in other performing arts lessons.
- During these rotations, students develop core musical skills, including:

- **Singing:** Teaching students to sing individually and in ensembles, developing vocal techniques and confidence.
- **Keyboard and Ukulele:** Building instrumental skills that students practice both independently and within groups.
- **Composition and Music Production:** Introducing students to the fundamentals of composing and producing their own music, fostering creativity and technical understanding.
- **Listening skills** are embedded throughout the KS3 curriculum. Students engage with a broad range of musical genres and styles, learning to critically listen and analyse music by identifying key elements and understanding the cultural and historical contexts.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

- In Years 10 and 11, students have five lessons per fortnight, focusing on personalised areas of interest. Students can:
 - Choose an instrument to specialise in, such as brass, woodwind, strings, percussion, or voice.
 - Alternatively, they can opt to specialise in music production, enhancing their technical skills in music technology.
- **Listening skills** are further developed in KS4, where students engage in more complex music analysis. This includes exploring various musical styles, historical periods, and cultural influences, helping students to connect theoretical knowledge with practical musicianship.
- **Composition** also remains central, allowing students to create their own music and further develop their creativity in preparation for future musical studies or careers.

Partnership with Barnsley Music Education Hub

Our school has a strong partnership with the Barnsley Music Education Hub, offering students additional opportunities for musical growth and development. Our Subject Leader of Music represents secondary schools as part of the Barnsley Music Education Hub Steering Group, which allows us to engage in a wider network of music education resources.

Music Mark Schools Programme

Barnsley Music Service has celebrated the value that we place on music in our school by inviting us to become a music mark school. The benefits of being a Music Mark School include access to a Music Mark Members Area account for our teachers to access resources and training sessions as well as regular newsletters to keep us up to date with the latest national and regional sector news.

Music Qualifications

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Through the Barnsley Music Education Hub, students have access to graded music examinations. Additionally, students can opt for GCSE Music in KS4, allowing them to further their musical education and explore potential career pathways.

Our curriculum is ambitious for all pupils, including those with SEND. We have high expectations for all students, so the curriculum is not diluted or unnecessarily reduced for them. Each pupil is different, and what works varies for each one. Pupils' individual needs, as set out in SEND support plans, are considered, and adaptations are planned to ensure their success in all subjects. The design of our curriculum ensures that chunks of learning are sequenced coherently, enabling all pupils, including those with SEND, to build on prior knowledge.

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.

Individual and Group Tuition

In partnership with Barnsley Music Service, we offer a comprehensive programme of one-to-one and small group tuition for students interested in pursuing music outside of regular lessons. These lessons cover a wide variety of instruments, including:

- **Brass**
- **Woodwind**
- **Strings**
- **Keyboard**
- **Drums**
- **Guitar**
- **Voice**

Tuition costs are affordable, starting at £57.50 per term for a group lesson, or £29 per term for students eligible for free school meals. Instrument hire is also available at £15 per term, or free for students on free school meals. If students would prefer to have an individual lesson this option is available, starting at £115 for 20 minutes.

Enrichment Opportunities

Our school is committed to nurturing a rich musical culture through a range of free enrichment activities that any student can join, regardless of experience or skill level. These opportunities are designed to encourage creativity, collaboration, and personal growth. Available activities include:

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- **Lunchtime enrichment activities:** Karaoke is a popular choice of activity at lunchtimes. Students are provided with the opportunity to sing on their own or with their friends in the college theatre.
- **Jam Session:** A space for students to explore their musical creativity, practise with peers, and develop ensemble skills.
- **Choir:** Open to all students, the choir takes part in performances and helps develop vocal techniques and performance confidence.
- **School Band:** Students can join the school band, where they gain experience playing in larger ensembles, performing at school events.
- **Annual School Show:** Our annual School Show gives all students the opportunity to participate and perform. Lead roles are filled through auditions, and any student can join the ensemble, ensuring that everyone has a chance to be involved and contribute to the performance.

External Enrichment Opportunities

We also encourage students to participate in external music activities beyond Horizon. These include joining the Barnsley Youth Choir (BYC) and a variety of ensembles run by Barnsley Music Education Hub, such as Concert Band and Brass Band. These external opportunities allow students to further develop their musical skills and connect with a wider community of musicians. Horizon Community College supports BYC throughout the year by offering the college theatre as a venue for meetings and performances.

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.

Annual School Performances

Our school hosts a series of exciting performances each year, including:

- **School Show:** A large-scale production that involves students from all year groups.
- **Battle of the Bands:** A celebration of music that brings together students from across Barnsley. Performances are evaluated by a panel of local educators, providing students with constructive feedback in a positive and supportive atmosphere.
- **School Concert:** An end-of-year concert that allows students to perform individually or in ensembles, showcasing their talents.

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External Performance Opportunities

In addition to internal school events, students have numerous opportunities to perform in public venues and external events. These experiences help them gain real-world performance experience and build their musical portfolios. Some key events include:

- **Barnsley Music Education Hub's Winter Celebration:** A regional event where students perform alongside other young musicians from the area.
- **PGS Live:** A local showcase event for emerging talent.
- **South Yorkshire Music Hub Conference:** Earlier this year, we had the privilege of taking students to perform at this prestigious event, allowing them to share their talents with a wider audience across the region.

Music-Related Trips and Workshops

To broaden students' musical horizons, we organise regular trips to attend professional performances, participate in workshops, and explore career pathways in the music industry. Recent trips and opportunities include:

- **Theatre Visits:** Students are given the chance to see professional musical theatre productions, enhancing their understanding of live performance and stagecraft.
- **External Workshops:** We offer unique workshops, such as the Taiwan Music Workshop, where students engage with music from different cultures and genres. Additionally, we run career-oriented trips, such as a visit to Leeds Conservatoire, helping students explore potential pathways in higher education and the music industry.

Barnsley Music Education Hub Collaboration

Our strong partnership with the Barnsley Music Education Hub plays a vital role in expanding the range of musical experiences available to our students. Through this collaboration, students can access various workshops and performance opportunities, helping them build confidence and enhance their musical skills.

Leeds Conservatoire Futures School

As a designated Leeds Conservatoire Futures School, we benefit from specialised support and guidance from one of the UK's leading music institutions. Each year, students participate in two bespoke workshops led by experts from Leeds Conservatoire. These workshops are designed to inspire students and give them a taste of conservatoire-level training and performance.

External Workshops and Career Sessions

In addition to our partnership with Leeds Conservatoire, we invite industry professionals and musicians to lead workshops and career talks for our students. Recent examples include:

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- **Tom Masters:** A local musician who has led sessions on career development in the music industry.
- **Penistone Grammar School:** Collaborative sessions with local schools, including Penistone Grammar School, broaden students' perspectives and provide additional opportunities for discussion. Recent sessions included conversations about A Level options, helping students explore their future educational pathways.

In the future

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

Looking ahead, we are committed to enhancing our music offer by expanding opportunities for our students. Our goals include:

- **Increased Trips:** We plan to offer a broader range of trips and experiences, allowing students to engage with the wider musical community and explore diverse musical genres and cultures.
- **Greater Engagement in Instrumental and Vocal Lessons:** We will focus on increasing student participation numbers in instrumental and vocal lessons, fostering individual talent and encouraging collaboration among peers.
- **Successful Implementation of Performance Opportunities and Events:** We will continue to put on enrichment events successfully, creating more opportunities for students to perform, collaborate, and showcase their musical talents.
- **Embedding the New GCSE Course:** We are dedicated to effectively integrating the new GCSE Music course into our curriculum, ensuring that students are well-prepared for their assessments and equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge.
- **Enhanced Curriculum Time:** We aim to increase music curriculum time to **one hour per week** for all students, providing them with additional time to develop their musical skills, knowledge, and creativity.

Further information (optional)

The Department for Education: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people>

Barnsley Music Education Hub: [Music Education Hub | Barnsley Music Education Hub | United Kingdom](#)

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Barnsley Youth Choir: <https://www.barnsleyyouthchoir.org.uk/>