

Music Development Plan summary: Northgate High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	28.10.24
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Chloe Rutter and Jade Tournay-Godfrey
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	John Tunaley
Name of local music hub	Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

Key Stage 3:

- Our Key Stage 3 curriculum overview can be found on the school website here: [Key Stage 3 Music](#)
- We teach students in lessons of 75 minutes length. In Year 7 students study music on rotation with computing, 1 lesson per week; in Year 8 students have 1 dedicated music lesson per week all year; in Year 9 students study music on rotation with drama, 1 lesson per week.
- We are very ambitious for our students and have crafted a curriculum that seeks to enthuse students and provide them with the skills needed for future musical success. Our curriculum model is informed by the [model music curriculum guidance](#) (March 2021). It is designed to develop technical skills, including

reading staff notation, playing keyboards and guitar and singing in unison and in harmony.

Key Stage 4:

- Our Key Stage 4 curriculum overview can be found on the school website here: [Key Stage 4 Music](#)
- We offer Edexcel GCSE Music as part of the Key Stage 4 options process. All students are able to take this course. Students who take this course study Music for 2 lessons (totalling 150 minutes) per week throughout Years 10 and 11.
- The GCSE Music course teaches students in four areas of study: Instrumental music (1700-1820); vocal music; music for stage and screen; fusions. Students develop performing, composing and listening skills.

Key Stage 5:

- Our curriculum overview can be found on the school website here: [Key Stage 5 Music](#)
- We follow the Eduqas A-Level Music course. Students who take this course study Music for 4 lessons (totalling 300 minutes) per week throughout Years 12 and 13.
- The A-level Music course has components which cover: The western classical tradition; rock and pop music 1960-2000; into the twentieth century.

Graded Music:

- Graded music exams are available to all students, regardless of whether they are having music tuition.

Partnerships:

- Our local music hub is the Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub. We are building stronger links with this organisation to explore opportunities for our students.
- We work with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (OAE) in partnership with Acland Burghley School and Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy, including joint performance to parents.

Part B: Extra-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.

A wide range of music tuition and support is available to our students, to develop their talents:

- Peripatetic music tuition lessons are offered in guitar (3 types), brass (all), woodwind (all), upper strings, lower strings, piano and drums. Lessons are weekly, 20-minute sessions, offered on a one-to-one or small group joint basis.
- Graded exams are conducted through the County Music Service, ABRSM or Trinity Music Exams from Grade 1 upwards.
- Musical instrument loan is available and organised through the Suffolk County Music Service.
- Parents and carers can pay online for tuition and loans, with the ability to break this into instalments.
- Financial support is available for Pupil Premium students to meet these costs.

We run a wide range of ensembles and groups, available to students for free, in a bid to get as many students as possible engaging in and benefitting from group performance:

- Key Stage 3 string ensemble
- Key Stage 4/5 string ensemble
- Key Stage 3 choir
- Key Stage 4/5 choir
- Key Stage 3 keyboard club, which includes input from sixth form helpers
- Jazz band – open to grade 4+ instrumentalists
- Northgate band and orchestra

Additionally, our students are encouraged to take advantage of a number of other opportunities to develop their musical skills:

- Students can make use of the music practice rooms at lunchtime or after school to further develop their skills individually or in small groups.
- Music schools are available on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings through the Suffolk County Music Service.
- Master classes and workshops are available through Ipswich School.
- Students have the opportunity to perform at a variety of locations, including the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, the Corn Exchange and the Regent Theatre.

Part C: Musical events

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.

We run a very wide range of events throughout the school year, which students are encouraged to participate in:

- All students can compete in the Young Musician Of The Year event, with heats and finals taking place. A small charge is levied for this event, with financial support available for Pupil Premium students.
- All students can get involved in the School Show. We have a wide variety of roles including playing, singing, technical support, sound, lighting, stage design and back-stage crew. This event is free to students.
- All students can take part in the annual Carol Service at St Margaret's Church. This event is free to students.
- We run GCSE Music and A-level Music concerts for associated students. These events are free to students.
- All students can perform in the Summer Concert. A small charge is levied for this event, with financial support available for Pupil Premium students.
- All students are able to perform to peers through a variety of rewards and celebration assemblies and as part of the Dora Love project. These events are free to students.

Students benefit from participation in a range of workshops and activities as they move through their musical journey at Northgate:

- The English Touring Opera
- Industry Education Music
- WaterBear College of Music
- The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

We run a variety of educational trips for students to experience music performances outside of the school environment:

- Year 8-13 students can go to the Snape Maltings Concert Hall to experience opera performances.
- Year 10-13 students can visit The Barbican to experience an orchestral performance.
- Students can experience musical theatre visits – for example, we have run trips to performances of Wicked (all students) and Six (Years 8 and 9).

In the future

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

We are working on improvements to Music Technology provision, with students in Year 10 upwards accessing this through improved equipment and software in our music teaching rooms.

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 [Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub](#) website has further information about music educational opportunities and events, plus a range of resources that students, parents and carers may find useful.

The [Suffolk County Music Service](#) website contains information about music lessons, musical instrument hire and purchase, and financial support for families.