

Music development plan summary: *Chelmsford County High School for Girls*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	1 st July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Chris Lamberti
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Michael Palmer
Name of local music hub	Greater Essex
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Essex Music Services

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.

Chelmsford County High School for Girls offers its own wide and varied music curriculum which is informed by the model music curriculum (March 2021) but adapted to suit the needs of our students. The Department prides itself on working closely together as a team and all members are fully committed to the promotion and development of the subject throughout the school and beyond. Our aim is to encourage students of all abilities, backgrounds and cultures including those with special education needs to extend their knowledge and skills to work with enthusiasm and confidence towards achievement and creative personal growth. We aim to support and maximise the skills of the individual.

Our department works in partnership with Essex Music Hub. This has led to joint learning and practical experiences working with students from other local schools. A good example of this happened last term where we worked with the Britten Sinfonia, a

professional orchestra. Through the Music Hub students have access to hiring different instrument at a subsidised cost.

KS3 Music

The music teaching programme is planned methodically in order for our students to grow in their learning regardless of ability. At KS3 students receive a music lesson for 1 hour each week.

Students enter our school at year 7 having had mixed musical learning experiences within their primary schools. Some students arrive having taken graded examinations

KS3 Music Curriculum Overview 2023-2024

	Autumn 1 & 2		Spring 1 & 2		Summer 1 & 2	
Year 7	Musical Elements & Performing Skills Theory basics (stave, note/rest lengths etc) Brief history of the march Class performance of 'British Grenadiers' (assessment)	Chords Understanding chords with inversion. Chord based written test From December Christmas 2 part song. Concert/Carol Service preparation.	Ukulele Project Music motor skills Chord sequences Combining singing whilst playing	Performance Skills Ode to Joy Performance skills and conducting (assessment)	VIP Studios 1 Introduction to using VIP studios Create a Dance/House track (assessment)	Features of the WCT Theme and Variations tasks. Compose theme with variation (assessment)
	Singing	Singing	Singing	Singing	Singing	Singing
Year 8	Improvisation Improvising skills over chord sequence. Recap chord understanding from year 7. 12 Bar Blues Blues Scale	Sibelius Skills (Musical structures) Compose a piece in Binary Form (A=16 bars, B= 16 bars) Melody and harmony composition task, in pairs. (assessment) From December Christmas 2 part song. Concert/Carol Service preparation.	The Planets Listening tasks from the planets Context of the composer Holst. Performance of Jupiter (assessment)	Guitar Skills - Pop Songs Musical Futures resources Focus on Chords Compose original song (assessment)	Programme Music What is programme music tasks? Extended performing and conducting skills. Developing ensemble skill. Performance of 'In the Hall of the Mountain King' (assessment)	VIP Studios 2 Bhangra. Focus on specific artists.
	Singing	Singing	Singing	Singing	Singing	Singing
Year 9	Film Music History of Film Music Diatonic/non diatonic music Leit-motif Compose music to given film scene (assessment)	Sibelius Skills (musical structures) Compose a piece in Ternary Form (A=16 bars, B= 16 bars) Accompaniment styles e.g. waltz, romantic, broken chords etc. (assessment) From December Christmas 2 part song. Concert/Carol Service preparation.	Music in Adverts – VIP Studios Compose a piece of music for a particular product. Target audience? Melodic interest?	Minimalism Context of genre Musical examples Tubular Bells arrangement /composition tasks (assessment)	Ensemble Performance BBC 10 pieces arrangement Dr Who – Delia Derbyshire. Ensemble performance	Class Concert Students use musical skills to create a class performance. Any style, solo or ensemble.
	Singing	Singing	Singing	Singing	Singing	Singing

Majority of lessons will include listening development skills with a focus on key elements including aural dictation e.g. Structure, Melody, Harmony, Pitch, Texture, Sonority. The listening questions will be developed in a way that will support students who opt to take GCSE Music in year 10.

Darker = Performance Skills Lighter = Composition Skills

and some have not had such an opportunity. As a result, our KS3 schemes of work are adapted to accommodate this. We have an ethos of providing a practical based curriculum. This means our students experience performing, composing and listening to music from a wide variety of musical genres including different cultures. Students will develop their skills and techniques through playing a variety of instruments either as a class or in smaller groups. Additionally, students will learn to develop singing in harmony during lessons. Lessons include a variety of analytical listening tasks where students can build their confidence in using musical vocabulary to support their learning and through this their performing and composing. The skills learnt at KS3 allow students to move into KS4 giving them confidence in their own musical understanding if they choose to study the subject at GCSE.

GCSE Music

We follow the GCSE Music Eduqas specification which allows students to build on the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired by students at key stage 3. It is expected that the candidates will have developed sufficient understanding and skill for the GCSE to be rewarding and enjoyable. Students receive 5 hours of lessons a fortnight. As a part of these lessons students will develop and compose at least two of their own pieces with guidance from staff. Students will also regularly perform either in groups or as a soloist. This might include short tasks or even a short recital type performance to their peers. Students will also listen to a wealth of music from the western classical tradition up to present day popular music and everything in between. Students will study how great composers and artists have developed their work and they will be able to describe pieces of music using appropriate musical terminology.

A Level Music

This Eduqas specification encourages students to further develop their love for music with much more academic vigour. Time is frequently spent understanding the historical contexts of music development and studying musical scores with detailed analysis of numerous pieces across the Western Classical Tradition and 20th Century including aspects in the development of Jazz. This content is reviewed each academic year. Students studying this course at CCHS receive 8 hours of lessons in a fortnight.

Additional Experiences and Qualifications; ABRSM examinations and Arts Awards.

CCHS students are offered the opportunity to pay for one-to-one instrumental and/or vocal lessons. If appropriate students can work towards sitting an ABRSM graded music examination on their chosen instrument/voice. CCHS hold termly ABRSM examination sittings in school with a visiting examiner.

In conjunction with other arts subjects' students can apply for the opportunity to complete a bronze arts award. Whilst this covers all aspects of the arts it is possible to achieve this level 1 qualification within a music focus.

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.

We offer a vast array of extracurricular activities with our department being a busy and exciting place throughout every school day. Groups are run for free either by music staff or 6th form students. All our ensembles will work towards performing in our school concerts which are extremely well attended. Our Christmas and Spring concerts are held across two nights with our summer cabaret concert on one night; concerts are invariably sold out meaning that each performance is watched by 220 people. We continue to enter ensembles into the Music for Youth national festival and have had success with groups being invited to perform at Birmingham Symphony Hall and the CBSO centre in Birmingham. We have an open-door policy which means students just need to sign up to be a part of our ensembles. There are times when we hold auditions for places in our Symphony orchestra and for our school production ensemble.

We have in excess of 20 extracurricular ensembles with others being added as student interest arises. Current ensembles include:

Symphony orchestra	Flute quartet	Senior choir	Double reed ensemble
Concert orchestra	Senior flute ensembles	Show choir	Sangeetham (Indian band)
Wind band	Junior flute ensemble	Gospel choir	Recorder consort
Jazz band	Guitar ensemble	Cantatrici (chamber choir)	A variety of rock bands
String ensemble	Brass ensemble	Clarinet quartet	Saxophone quartet

All of these ensembles are extremely well attended with, for example, Senior Choir having over 100 participants, Show Choir having over 90 participants, Symphony Orchestra having over 55 participants.

Extracurricular music is an integral part of school life whether it be in one of our established ensembles or something different. Students always perform in our whole school assemblies including our array of celebration assemblies both in school and at Chelmsford Cathedral. Beyond the realms of the music department, we have a thriving house system. We hold a biannual house music competition where every student must participate. There are also house karaoke competitions which again involve every student performing.

As previously mentioned, we offer students the opportunity to pay for instrumental or singing lessons with 1 to 1 tuition from one of our 12 highly experienced instrumental colleagues. We are able to support students financially who qualify as part of the Pupil Premium Grant scheme. Each year we have on average around 250 students who take up the chance to have a 1 to 1 lesson. Students build their confidence in these lessons which becomes more and more apparent when listening to our superb ensembles or performances in classes. We offer lessons in all orchestral instruments and more:

Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass

Brass: Trumpet, Tenor Horn, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba

Woodwind: Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, All saxophones

Percussion: Drum Kit

Guitars: Classical and rock/pop, bass guitar

Vocal: Soprano, Alto – all genres covered.

Piano & Electronic Keyboard.

We work closely with Essex Music Hub. They offer an affordable way into hiring instruments on a termly basis. We have many students who take up this offer. Where possible we engage with opportunities organised by the music hub which might include working with professional musicians from all different musical backgrounds. Starting in September 2024 Essex Music Hub will be holding a music school in our building one evening a week. More information is available from the [Essex Music Hub website](#).

Our department is an exciting hub of musical activity each and every day. Where possible students can rehearse in one of our rooms whenever they are free.

The teaching of our students whether it be through the curriculum, or our extracurricular offer requires a spontaneous, interactive approach, stretching the individual to full capacity so enthusiasm and stamina are a requirement.

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.

As previously stated, we offer numerous opportunities for students to perform throughout each academic year. Our main concerts are our Christmas, Spring and Summer Cabaret concerts. These are open to all year groups. The cabaret concert is an opportunity for students to practice and audition any piece of their choosing and if successful this will be put forward to the evening concert. This is open to all year groups.

Musical performance is an integral part to every whole school assembly. Students can put themselves forward to perform at these events or are sometimes invited to perform; these performances afford valuable experiences to the performers and for many in these assemblies they will provide rare examples of high quality live performance. Every summer the school holds Arts Week. During this fantastic week Art, Music,

Drama and PE put on lunchtime performances under our newly built outside canopy. It is always such a thrill to witness students performing and watching their friends in the audience come and support them. During the summer term our 6th form senior prefect team organise a charity event which is held outside on a school day afternoon. The prefects audition school bands from all year groups and give them the opportunity to perform outside on a stage in more of a music festival setting. Weather permitting it is such an enjoyable event for all students and staff to witness the buzz of the live musical performances as a member of the audience.

We hold a biannual House Music Competition in which all students in Years 7 to 10 participate, either in their form's ensemble item or in a smaller group. Each competition is judged by a former student of CCHS; our judges are always drawn from the many of our alumnae who work as professional musicians.

The CCHS Music Department also contributes to the annual school production. This tends to alternate between a play with musical items or a musical with a full pit band. Show bands are entirely composed of students and we have even in the past had a full set of music to accompany a Shakespeare play written by our Year 13 students.

In the future

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

The CCHS Music Department is always reflecting on our practice and musical offer. During the next academic year, we hope to include the opportunity of visits to live performances such as musical theatre, orchestral performances and jazz clubs. We will also look to the possibility of reintroducing our musical tours to other places in the United Kingdom or in Europe. Furthermore, we will develop our work with the Greater Essex Music Hub and our involvement with the outreach programme run by the Britten Symphonia.

The CCHS Music Department is always responsive to the suggestions of colleagues, parents and students. We will continue to foster student initiative in the development of ensembles and performance opportunities and as well as sustaining our current excellent work will look further to develop ensembles which reflect the rich diversity of the school community.