

Music development plan Summary: Newstead Wood School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	January 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	January 2027
Name of the school music lead	Stephen Flanagan
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Anthony Boutall
Name of local music hub	Bromley Youth Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	United Learning Central team

Part A: Curriculum music

Music is taught weekly at KS3. Our school follows the United Learning trustwide curriculum framework and we have adapted this locally to meet the needs of our learners. Our curriculum can be found on the school website. We work with our subject advisers to ensure that both the curriculum intent and implementation is having impact, and we can seek support from this team throughout the year.

We have taken special care to ensure that playing instruments is a prominent feature of our curriculum. This is because we aim to ensure that all students have access to learning a musical instrument through the curriculum, and they can specialise on one instrument as they move through key stage three. For example, in Year 9 they can choose whether to approach units as a keyboard player, singer, drummer etc, and the foundation for these has been provided earlier on in the curriculum.

Performance – celebrating product as well as process – is also carefully planned into our curriculum. From low stakes moments of formative assessment to class ensemble performances, to the end of term concerts. We celebrate the talent and progress of our students and provide them with a platform to develop their confidence and share their creativity.

At KS4, students receive 2 hours per week to study the EDEXCEL GCSE course.

More information can be found on this via our website:

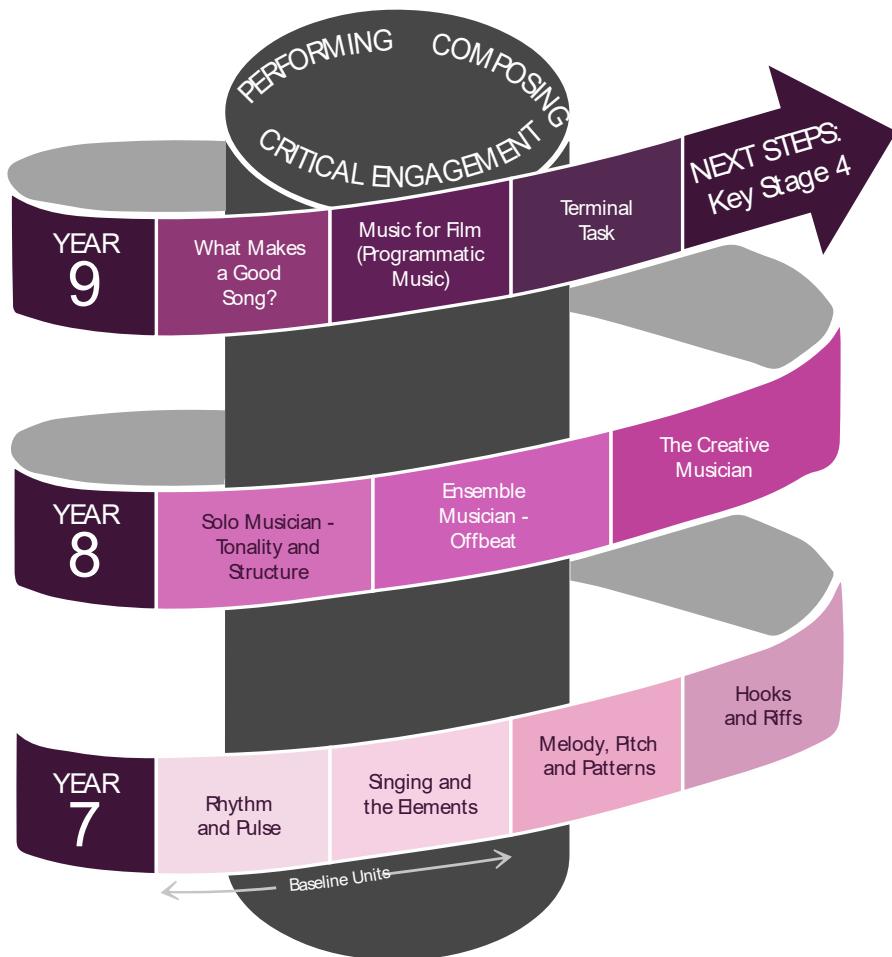
[Music | Key Stage 3 Curriculum | Curriculum | Newstead Wood School](#)

[Music | Key Stage 4 Curriculum | Curriculum | Newstead Wood School](#)

At KS5, students receive 4 hours per week to study Eduqas A-Level Music course. More information can be found on this via our website: [A Level Music.pdf](#)

See the school information guidance on [curriculum](#) and on [SEND](#).

- The school music curriculum is influenced by the United Learning [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021) and adapted to a grammar school for girls.



- There are many opportunities for pupils to learn to sing or play an instrument during lesson time, such as through whole-class ensemble teaching in some or all year groups, such as Year 7 Instruments of the Orchestra, Year 8 Jazz and Year 9 Musical Theatre Performing Arts.

KEY STAGE 3 OVERVIEW

Year 7: Vocal Works, the Elements of Music, Keyboard Skills, Instruments of the Orchestra, the Baroque Era and Rhythms of the World.

Year 8: Blues, Jazz, Classical Variations, Reggae, Songwriting and Modernism

Year 9: Romantic Era Waltz, Club Dance, Cover Band, Film music and Musical Theatre

Embedded in each topic are the rudiments of music theory, giving students the tools to compose and perform and enabling them to listen and respond to music more discerningly. All topics combine performing, composing, listening and appraising tasks and a wide range of singing activities.

KEY STAGE 4 OVERVIEW - At Key Stage 4, the subject is divided into the following three components:

- Understanding music
- Performing music
- Composing music

The areas of study provide an appropriate focus for students to appraise, develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical context and musical language. The eight-set works can also provide a rich source of material for our students to work with when developing their performance and composition skills.

The four areas of study comprise:

1. Bach's Brandenberg Concerto No.3
2. Purcell's Music for a While
3. Beethoven's Pathetique Sonata
4. Queen's Killer Queen
5. Star Wars Main Title Theme
6. Wicked's Defying Gravity
7. Afro Celt Sound System's Release
8. Esperanza Spalding's Samba Em Preludio.

KEY STAGE 5 OVERVIEW

Course content

Music at Newstead Wood School provides students with an excellent opportunity to develop you as a performer and composer. Through studying music from a range of different styles, and honing your listening and appraising skills, you will deepen your musical understanding. It is an exciting course that mixes the creative with the academic.

Component 1: Performing

Student's choice of:

- **Option A (35%) – Performance of 10-12 minutes.**
- **Option B (25%) – Performance of 6-8 minutes.**

You will work independently, with support from your instrumental teacher and the Music Department, to prepare a recital performance. You will perform at various points throughout the course in preparation for the final assessed public recital in April of Year 13. Students perform as a soloist for at least one of their pieces and can also choose to perform as part of an ensemble. You can perform on any instrument (including voice) and are assessed on performance accuracy, technical control and stylistic awareness.

Component 2: Composing

Student's choice of:

- **Option A (25%) – externally assessed portfolio of 4-6 minutes.**
- **Option B (35%) – externally assessed portfolio of 8-10 minutes.**

You will develop advanced composition skills in a number of styles leading to a submission of at least two pieces (depending on your choice of Option A or B). You will have the opportunity to develop your music technology skills within this part of the course, using Logic Pro or Musescore in our Apple Mac suite. You will develop your own unique compositional voice within the conventions of the Western Classical Tradition, as well as within other genres including Rock & Pop, Jazz, Musicals and Twentieth-century music.

Component 3: Appraising (40%)

(2h15m examination)

Students engage with music at an in-depth level, exploring some diverse set works and wider listening. Through developing critical analytical skills, students will uncover how composers have achieved their outcomes; we will explore how the elements of music have been handled and the impact of the music's historical, geographical and social contexts. All work in this component link to the three areas of study:

- Western Classical Tradition: The Development of the Symphony (one set work)
- Musical Theatre or Pop/Rock
- Into the Twentieth-Century (two set works)

Entry requirements:

Music GCSE at Level 7 or above. Students will normally have achieved at least Grade 5 (ABRSM or equivalent) on their primary instrument before starting the course.

Future opportunities

The course cultivates skills required across multiple disciplines, such as collaboration, academic writing, creative thinking, working to deadlines and independence.

Students in year 12 are invited to apply for positions of Music Subject Leaders.

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.

There is a rich co-curricular offer in Music and the Performing Arts at our school, and we are a welcoming department where students are encouraged to make the most of the opportunities and spaces that we have. The enrichment timetable this year will include:

	MB1	MB2	MB2 – After School
Monday	Rock Bands Mr. Hunt 1.30pm All welcome	GCSE Extra Mr. Flanagan 1.10pm Year 11	
Tuesday	Chamber Choir Mr. Boutall 1.30pm All welcome	String Quartet Mr. Flanagan 3.15pm All welcome	Guitar Club Ms. Dixon 3.15pm By invitation only
Wednesday	Jazz Collective Mr. Flanagan 1.30pm Grade 2+	Young Voices Mr. Hunt 3.15pm All welcome	
Thursday	Senior Orchestra Mr. Woodham 1.20pm Grade 5+	MusTech / Songwriting Mr. Hunt 1.30pm First 12 to arrive	Flute Group Mrs. Carter 3.15pm By invitation only
Friday	Junior Orchestra Mr. Woodham 1.20pm All welcome	Folk Group Mr. Hunt 1.30pm All welcome	

This is all provided at no cost to students, and we carefully target students who may need additional encouragement to attend.

We are also able to offer a range of one-to-one and small group lessons with high quality tutors who use our space to teach. These are paid for by parents and, where fundable, supported by the school. Currently we are able to offer: piano, violin, viola, cello, double bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, trumpet, French horn, trombone, percussion, drumkit, classical guitar, electric guitar and singing. The cost is £23 per 30 minute lessons and more information about this can be found [here](#).

We have worked hard to make links with the local music education hub; they welcome our students to attend after school ensembles and holiday courses. More information about this can be found [here](#).

Part C: Musical experiences

Throughout the year, ensembles and soloists perform at school events:

- 1.Winter Concert
- 2.Christmas Carol Competition.
- 3.Battle of the Bands
- 4.Songwriting Competition
- 5.An off-site collaboration concert
- 5.We Are Newstead day
- 8.Summer Concert.

All students are welcome to sing in the School Choir as well as join a suitable ensemble. There are assembly performances on the piano every week by one of our pianists. Students also perform beyond school in local/regional events for example, Music Hub events (BYMT) and local festivals in the Bromley area.

In the future

With the support of United Learning, we have reviewed ourselves against the Music Teachers Association self-evaluation framework.

- Participate in trust wide and Music Hub projects,
- Including more singing in the curriculum.
- Go on a non-choir, non-orchestra, accessible Music Tour
- Consolidating Music leader roles like the Year 12 Scholars and Y10 Prefects.
- Organising a staff choir.

There is plenty of scope to use current school events to promote more student-led music such as the Best In Everyone awards, ACE, Diwali, Iftar and Open Mornings.