

Music development plan Summary:

Newstead Wood School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Stephen Flanagan
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Paul Norman
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:

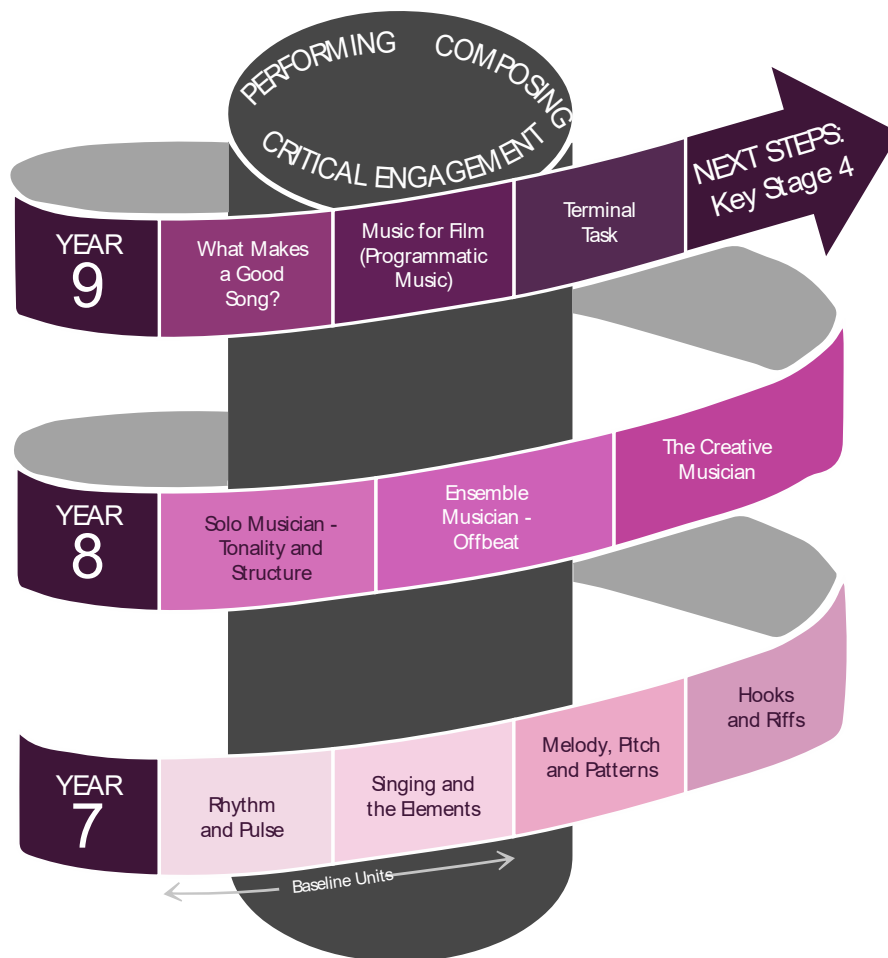
[Music | Key Stage 3 Curriculum | Curriculum | Newstead Wood School](#)

[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.

See the school information guidance on curriculum and on SEND for [curriculum](#) and for [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 Brandenburg 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 (35%) – Performance of 10-12 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 (25%) – externally assessed portfolio of 4-6 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:

- AoS A: Western Classical Tradition: The History of the Symphony
- AoS C: Musical Theatre
- AoSE: Into the 20th Century

Entry requirements:

Music GCSE at Level 7 or above. Students will normally have achieved at least Grade 6 (ABRSM or equivalent) on their primary instrument AND Grade 5 (ABRSM) theory before starting this 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 Scholar.

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.

There is a rich extra-curricular offer in Music and we are a welcoming department where students are encouraged to make the most of the opportunities and spaces that we have. The Music Clubs timetable comprises:

1.25-2.05pm	MB1	MB2
Monday	Steel Pans <i>Mr. Dowie (Pay via WisePay)</i> Y9-13(1.20-2.05pm). Y7-8(3.45-4.30pm)	Rock Bands <i>Mr. Flanagan</i> All welcome including beginners
Tuesday	Chamber Choir <i>Mr. Flanagan</i> Choral. All welcome	Classical Guitar Ensemble <i>Mrs. Dixon</i> Mrs. Dixon's students only.
Wednesday	Apprentice Collective <i>Mr Flanagan & Mrs. Lewis</i> Beginners up to grade 2 welcome	Gospel Choir <i>Year 12 Christian Union Captain</i> All welcome
Thursday	Senior Orchestra <i>Mr. Flanagan</i> Grade 3 and above.	GCSE Composition Intervention <i>Year 12 Music Scholar</i> All welcome
Friday	Young Voices <i>Mrs. Lewis</i> Pop/Rock/showtunes covers All welcome	

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. Further information including details of fees can be found here: [here](#)

BYMT welcomes our students to attend after school ensembles and holiday courses. More information about this can be found here: [here](#).

Part C: Musical experiences

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

1. Winter Concert
2. A trust-wide or local hub-led collaboration concert at a prestigious venue.
3. Summer Concert.

All students are welcome to sing in the School Choir as well as join a suitable ensemble. Students also perform beyond school in local/regional events and festivals.

In the future

With the support of United Learning, we review ourselves against the Music Teachers Association self-evaluation framework:

1. All children and young people receive a high-quality music education in the early years and in schools
2. All music educators work in partnership, with children and young people's needs and interests at their heart
3. All children and young people with musical interests and talents have the opportunity to progress, including professionally.