

# Music development plan summary: Wath Academy

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs J Hole
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs S Casey
Name of local music hub	Rotherham Music Service
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 students 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 students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students' 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 students can achieve.

Wath Academy offers Music lessons throughout Key Stages 3,4 and 5 as part of their curriculum. The curriculum offers a broad, balanced and diverse range of experiences, allowing the development of social and cultural values and a growth mindset. The curriculum is knowledge and skills based and aims to support our mantra 'Music for All'.

In Key Stage 3 all students have access to music lessons in mixed ability teaching groups in one of 3 fully equipped Music teaching rooms which have computer workstations complete with Sibelius and Cubase

programmes as well as MIDI keyboards, Electric Drum Kits, Electric Guitars, Bass Guitars, Ukuleles and an assortment of tuned and untuned percussion. In Y7 and Y8 students have the equivalent of a weekly music lesson of 75 mins and in Y9 students have one 75 minute lesson per fortnight. The curriculum for KS3 is informed by the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021) and includes the key features of the [national plan for music education](#).

Through the KS3 curriculum all students have the opportunity to experience a range of musical styles through practical, contextual and theoretical skills. Units are topic based and include where possible singing, theory, reading of various forms of notation which is relevant to the Area of Study and having experience of all of the instruments offered in the classroom, composition skills on ICT and development of Music Technology. The curriculum is sequential and builds on skills and knowledge from Y7 through to Y13 thus allowing all students to opt for Music from Y10 onwards. KS3 homework is set using Show My Homework once per half term consolidating information from the units of work covered in class.

At KS4 both Music pathways are available, [GCSE Music \(Eduqas\)](#) which is graded 1 -9 and [BTEC Technical Award in Music Practice](#) which is graded Pass to Distinction \*. Students have 2 weekly lessons of 75 minutes duration in Y10 and in Y11 an additional 50 minutes session which runs as a revision session throughout the year. All students are offered a peripatetic lesson free of charge to supplement their practical work outside the classroom. Through both pathways at KS4 students engage with performance, creation and knowledge and are encouraged to specialise on a specific instrument. All KS4 pathways allow for progression to KS5 at a higher level or vocational level. The KS4 curriculum is developed in-line with course requirements, but also so that prior learning is built upon. Planning is adapted on a lesson-by-lesson basis to suit the needs of the learners and this planning is judged and assessed by the classroom teachers based on learning outcomes. This is discussed with students in lessons. Homework is weekly and is set using Show My Homework although most KS4 homework is based on a coursework requirements and extended projects.

At KS5, three Music pathways are offered, [A Level Music \(Edexcel\)](#) and [BTEC level 3 Extended Certificate in Music Performance \(Pearson\)](#) and

### [BTEC level 3 Extended certificate in Music Technology \(Pearson\).](#)

Students have 4 weekly lessons of 75 minutes duration and Y12 and Y13 students are grouped according to their course and taught together. All students are offered a peripatetic lesson free of charge to supplement their practical work outside the classroom. The KS5 curriculum is developed in-line with course requirements, but also so that prior learning is built upon. Planning is adapted on a lesson-by-lesson basis to suit the needs of the learners and this planning is judged and assessed by the classroom teachers based on learning outcomes. This is discussed with students in lessons. Homework is weekly and is set using Show My Homework although most KS5 homework is based on a coursework requirements and extended projects.

All students with SEND, disabled students and those with visual or hearing impairment are taught within the department (sometimes with TA assistance). Planning and delivery of course content is adapted and refined to enable all to succeed through alternate methods of teaching.

All students have the opportunity to experience live music performances with the range of extra-curricular showcases on offer through performance or audience opportunities.

### **Part B: Extra-curricular music**

This is about opportunities for students to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how students can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

Wath Academy links with [Rotherham Music Service](#) to provide peripatetic Music tuition for the following - Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, Singing, Piano, Strings, Guitar. These lessons are organised for 15-20 minutes individual sessions with the peripatetic staff. In addition, a private Piano tutor also teaches one day a week to accommodate the number of students taking lessons. Students are able to play for fun or through these lessons students are guided to take ABRSM, Rotherham Music Exams, Trinity, Rock School or other external exams on the instrument of their choice. The peripatetic lessons are paid for by parents unless a student opts to study Music at KS4 or KS5 when school pays for 1 peripatetic lesson per student.

For LAC lessons are paid for and instruments purchased through funding for the individual child. All students who have per lessons have the opportunity to attend Rotherham Music Service ensembles out of school at an extra charge to parents, these include bands, orchestra, guitar groups, DJ and Recording, Rock & Pop Band which run on Saturdays and evenings during the week. Instruments can be loaned at a fee from Rotherham Music Service as part of their agreement where school do not have a suitable instrument available. Rotherham Music Service offers school holiday activities, and these are published offering a wide range of musical experiences including DJing, ensembles, songwriting where students sign up at a fee paid for by parents.

Due to the location of Wath Academy some of our students attend Barnsley Music Centre and other local ensembles in the community for example Grimethorpe Junior Band, Maltby Training Brass Band, Rotherham Symphony Orchestra, City of Sheffield Youth Orchestra, Real Music Centre (Wombwell), Encore (Musical Theatre Group), Barnsley Youth Jazz Association, Cast Academy (Wath), Pauline Quirk (Barnsley) and Barnsley Youth Choir. Through these they experience a wider range of musical experiences, working with different professionals and taking part in tours and performances outside of school.

Extra- Curricular activities are wide ranging within the department and are free of charge for all students regardless of having lessons in school or externally. These opportunities run at lunchtimes and after school and include String Group, School band/orchestra, VOX (Vocal group) Guitar and Drums Club, Music Technology Club and Music Drop-in sessions for extra help on classwork and coursework. In addition, Wednesday afternoon enrichment offers all students the opportunity to opt into music activities free of charge which include Grade 5 Theory ABRSM lessons, Musical Theatre, Rock/Pop Band Skills, Music Tech, GCSE Music additional qualification, School production (Musical) and trips to the theatre to see professional productions. These extra-curricular opportunities all feed into annual showcase events which include Vocal Evening, Christmas Concert, School Production, Piano Recital Evening, Academy Awards at Sheffield City Hall, Cabaret Evening, Open Evenings, KS3 showcases and visits to Community homes to perform to residents and community events in school.

The school has 3 large classrooms to accommodate ensembles and whole class music as well as 2 peripatetic teaching/practise rooms. One of the teaching rooms has the development of a recording studio in progress. In addition, the school hall and other areas are used for various events and rehearsals. Student led ensembles are encouraged to build teamwork, leadership and other skills. Many of these have students who arrange or compose their own music and realise it in these groups alongside friends. In 2022 Wath Academy was awarded Arts Mark Award for our contributions to music in school and within the Rotherham area of which we are extremely proud.

### **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.

For this academic year alongside the weekly rehearsals and enrichment opportunities we have the following planned:

**October/ November- Murder Mystery-** all sixth form music students will have the opportunity to perform in the showcase with the support of peri teachers and school staff. Students who do not have lessons in school are also encouraged to take part. The performance will be an evening ticketed event for parents, family and friends to attend.

**November- Cabaret Evening-** KS5 musicians will perform in the evening. The performance will be an evening ticketed event for parents, family and friends to attend.

**December-Christmas concert-** all musicians and members of ensembles will perform in the concert with the support of the peri teachers and school staff. Students who do not have lessons in school are also encouraged to take part. The performance will be an evening ticketed event for parents, family and friends to attend which includes seasonal refreshments.

**February- Piano Evening-** all pianists will perform in the concert with the support of the peri teacher and school staff. Students who do not have piano lessons in school are also encouraged to take part. The

performance will be an evening ticketed event for parents, family and friends to attend at a minimal charge. The proceeds are donated to charity.

**March-School Production** - Grease- Enrichment students and band skills, music tech students will all form part of this collective production. The performances will be evening ticketed events for parents, family and friends to attend and a matinee for primary feeder schools free of charge.

**Visits to residential homes**- an assortment of students will visit local residential homes during enrichment throughout the year to perform to residents during their Wednesday afternoon. This is free of charge.

**Community Events**- an assortment of students will perform at community events throughout the year organised by school to invited audiences.

**September/ November-Open Evenings**- an assortment of students will perform during the open evenings for prospective students and parents, as soloists, in small ensembles covering a variety of styles. This is free of charge.

**July- Academy Awards**- all students throughout the school have an open invitation to audition for the prestigious evening at Sheffield City Hall. The audition process will enable students to experience the process and work towards a final act. Successful students will then perform at the showcase. All students receiving awards are in the audience as well as parents, family and friends. This is free of charge.

**TBC- KS4 & KS5 PA trip to London**- All KS4/5 students will be invited to participate in a trip to see a professional production in London.

This is updated continually throughout the year.

When a music event or trip is advertised, an online information letter with attached links is uploaded to class charts and social media platforms.

## In the future

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

- Wath Academy is in the process of developing the recording studio which we hope to have completed this year following building work.

- The curriculum is constantly being revised throughout KS3 to accommodate new courses at KS4 and KS5 and utilise the IT equipment and software to its full potential.
- The timetable for KS3 needs scheduling so there is 1 lesson per week to ensure progress over time in all KS3 classes, currently although time is allocated the distribution is uneven and progress is not as effective as would be liked.
- Increase in computer workstations for 1 per child/ reduced class sizes so that students do not have to share in their curriculum lessons.
- Addition of a Music Technician could be considered to assist in the day to day running of Music in school with the advance of Music Technology and its problems. Ideally this would be someone who could support the PA events technically also.
- Establish KS4/5 mixed PA residential trips.

## Further information (optional)

Link to Rotherham Music Hub:

Rotherham Music | About Us

[www.rotherhammusic.co.uk](http://www.rotherhammusic.co.uk)