

Music development plan summary:

Dixons Allerton Academy – Bradford

This document is designed to give a summary of the high-quality music provision at this academy in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, considering the key features in the national plan for music education:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for Key Stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

Overview

Detail	Information
Academy year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the academy music lead	Miss T McCormick
Name of the school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr S Robinson
Name of local music hub	Bradford music hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Dixons Academies Trust - Director of Music, Tamsin Rafnsson

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 pupils can achieve.

- Two members of staff are music specialists within the department.
- Students in Year 7 have 1 timetabled music lesson per week.
- Students in Year 8 have 1 timetabled music lesson per week.
- Students in Year 9 who opted for GCSE music have two timetabled music lessons per week.
- Students in Year 9 who did not opt for music have 1 lesson of music every 2 weeks on a 13 week carousel.
- Students in Year 10 who opted for GCSE music have 3 timetabled music lessons per week.
- Students in Year 11 who opted for GCSE music have 2 timetabled music lessons per week.
- Enrichment and Peripatetic support

- A variety of music clubs/groups with opportunities to perform and showcase on regular occasions are available for pupils.
- Peripatetic support – Guitar, Keyboard, Singing, Drums.
- All the music support is funded internally by the school with no cost to pupils.
- Students explore performing, listening & appraising in music lessons through practical work and music technology, they develop skills individually.
- The curriculum is aligned with the national music curriculum and some from the music model curriculum which explores a wide range of musical styles and genres allowing personal progress in musical skills while learning and appreciating music from different cultures and styles building cultural capital in our students – aligned with the school values of happiness & industry.
- At KS3, the pupils will build on the school value of mastery on the keyboard.
- Students are also given exposure for development to ensemble work, percussion and music technology. These are the main instruments used the most during the curriculum to allow for individual refinement over time.
- The curriculum is both accessible and challenging for all, so that every student is capable of achieving their personal best under the expert guidance of a specialist music teacher.
- This is supported by information from our SEND team which helps music staff adapt teaching to support the needs of every child.
- At Key Stage 4 students work towards the Eduqas Level 1/2 Vocational Award Performing Arts specification and develop skills on their chosen instrument and gain further insight into the music industry.
- Lessons are practical but also cover all the knowledge and skills need to understand the theory of music (reading scores and understanding musical symbols and key terminology) and also identifying features of music through focused listening tasks.
- All students opting for music are supported to take peripatetic lessons on their choice of instrument, and through this have the additional option of entering for external graded exams.

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.

- Pupils have opportunities to participate in school funded extra-curricular peripatetic lessons which are taught in small groups depending on pupil levels and previous experience. These lessons are on a 40-minute rota and students and staff are given access to times of these lessons.
- Students have access to the music practice rooms on allocated days to support their performance and progress on their instrument.
- The school will support pupils who need access to guitars and keyboards outside of school, especially during holiday periods.
- The music department has an open door policy for pupils to rehearse independently before school, during lunch and during break times.
- Enrichment timetable:
 - Monday: Samba band and Guitar club
 - Tuesday: Keyboard club & Yr.9 Band
 - Thursday: Choir, Rock band and Soul band
 - Friday: Girl Band

Part C: Musical experiences / Opportunities

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.

In 2025-26 the rehearsal schedule above will run every week, and most groups will get the opportunity to perform in at least one of the planned musical events this year:

- Academy open evening: students who wish to volunteer can perform or support with showing Year 6 around our music facilities and help them to play keyboard / ukulele or create a drum beat in our music technology room on music software.
- Dixons Cup: the music department encourages students to enter solo performance work to be considered for commendation and bronze, silver and gold awards as part of the trust wide Dixons Cup competition.
- These opportunities are offered at various points throughout the year. Students participating in external extra-curricular events can also be eligible to collect participation points for their academy towards the final total at the end of the year.



- Summer/Christmas Concert: this will involve most of the ensembles plus a mixture of solo and duet performances and will involve students from Year 7 to Year 11.
- Students wishing to participate should see the subject leader.
- Students can take part in community events.
- Peripatetic Keyboard teaching will run rehearsal sessions during the holidays except Christmas.
- GCSE Year 10/11 composition/performance day off timetable: this allows students to spend valuable time with the specialist teachers to respond to feedback and enhance their work.

In the future

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

We are constantly trying to ensure we offer the best musical opportunities to our students. Please see below some of the things we are planning for this year and beyond to maintain and build on our current provision:

- Curriculum:
 - This is currently under review to ensure our students get a diverse and stimulating curriculum that appeals to all
 - The curriculum is currently designed to ensure that students develop a lifelong love for music and develop a skill of mastery on the piano
 - Students will be made aware of any external competitions that they can take part in
- Outside the classroom
 - We are working with the community to attend events and bandstands
 - We work with the trust on collaboration concerts
 - We arrange for external speakers and music specialists to come into school and give insight into the music industry
 - We liaise with local musicians to come in and showcase a performance to all year groups
 - Music trips

Further information

Please find below some useful links which you may find helpful when considering your child's musical experiences inside and outside the academy:

- Bradford Music and Arts Service
- Bradford music hub's connect programme partner: young sounds connect
- The national plan for music education
- The model music curriculum
- 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.

