

Music development plan summary: Alder Community High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	1 st July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 st July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Adele Graham
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Michelle Critchlow
Name of local music hub	Tameside Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Anthem Music Service

Part A: Curriculum music

At Alder Community High School all pupils receive one hour weekly of music at Key Stage 3.

The curriculum has been thoughtfully designed so that pupils have opportunity to experience a wide range of music styles and cultures whilst developing their abilities to play a musical instrument. Pupils have opportunity to develop and refine their listening and appraising skills, music performance abilities and composition skill so that those pupils wanting to explore music further at KS4 have been given support and the foundation of knowledge and skill to support them in succeeding in music in year 10 and 11 but also to develop a deeper appreciation and love for music that reaches beyond the classroom.

Our curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum through some repertoire choices, the levels of music theory, which is taught to specific year groups, the threading of listening, performing and composing into each topic and by the emphasis on singing regularly as part of the curriculum. We have taken the inclusion of singing further by embedding this into whole year group assemblies every week at years 7 and 8.

Pupils begin their KS3 music journey focussing solely on rhythm using percussion instruments before building up to notation and using the keyboard. We focus on building up performance skills on the keyboard adding in accompaniments and chords and implore singing to support the understanding of putting pitch and melody together before exploring chords on Ukuleles and then transferring these live instrumental skills

into music production and composition with use of the midi keyboards and DAWs. Throughout the KS3 learning journey pupils have opportunity to perform as a soloist, in a duet or small ensemble building up their skills for the many different types of performance opportunities they could be asked to perform in as a real world musician.

We have a strong partnership with Anthem music service who provide us with guitar, drum, piano and vocal lessons weekly. At KS4 these lessons are funded by the school to support the KS4 music curriculum. The school also offers funded lessons for LAC and PP pupils. There is a strong uptake of parent paid instrumental lessons at KS3 also meaning we currently have 1 and a half days of guitar lessons, 1 and a half days of piano lessons, 1 full day of vocal and 3 hours of drum lessons happening every week. Anthem also run our vocal group on a weekly basis which is open to all pupils. Within instrumental lessons pupils are able to work towards ABRSM graded exams at their request to the teacher.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Instrumental lessons play a vital role in the music Curriculum at Alder. We currently offer funded weekly lessons for pupil premium and LAC pupils in order to support and enrich the curriculum. Instrumental lessons are offered to all pupils through Anthem music service and are available to be paid for by parents whether this be as a solo or ensemble lesson to be more inclusive of families budgets.

Outside of lesson time, we offer vocal group which is open to all pupils and is currently attended by over 40 pupils across each year group, school band which is an opportunity for ensemble playing at any standard and the house band which is targeted at our more advanced musicians with an aim that these musicians accompany our performances which occur throughout the year. All extra-curricular clubs are provided free of charge and ran by either the music classroom teachers or specialist instrumental teachers. We also offer rehearsal space for pupils who wish to create their own rock/pop ensembles. We have access to some instruments which are available for pupil loan to support their instrumental lessons and progress in school ran ensembles such as flutes, violins and guitars.

In terms of rehearsal time and access to instruments, we have two main practice rooms and 5 smaller practice rooms including an ensemble space where pupils can rehearse at brunch, lunch and after school when staff are available to supervise. These open rehearsal sessions allow for pupils to try a wider range of instruments than are used as part of the curriculum but our curriculum does allow for pupils to bring their wider instrumental skills into the classroom also. E.g. In a year 8 blues topic pupils will learn how to play a walking bass line on keyboard however pupils who play the electric bass or guitar can use these instruments in their own performances instead.

Alder has been host to the BIG SING ran by Tameside music service where our vocal group showcased their talents as well as Anthem offering performance opportunities to those pupils having instrumental lessons throughout the academic year.

Part C: Musical experiences

Every day pupils (soloists and small ensembles/bands) perform in assembly, so every child should hear live music played or sung once a week. Within years 7 and 8 there is an assembly song which changes each term. Pupils perform this song at the beginning of their assembly each week, the chosen songs have meaningful lyrics and some include sign language. The termly song is taught within curriculum music lessons.

Every year at Alder we have a carol concert at Hyde Chapel Church, Gee Cross which really brings in the Christmas Spirit through audience participation carols and pupil performances and a Summer Showcase every year where all our ensembles perform aswell as many pupils who have instrumental lessons and those who enjoy music beyond the classroom.

We have previously hosted the Big Sing ran by Caroline Ratcliff through TMS and are planning to host this again in the Autumn term of 2025. This is an opportunity for our vocal group to showcase their current pieces and is our expectation that pupils perform and build skills to perform in harmony reading notation.

Bi-annually the school puts on a musical theatre production, the rehearsals for which are twice a week after school with full tech and dress rehearsals the week before the show. This provides opportunities for engaging extra-curricular music making in school. Our past musical in the Spring of 2024 was Matilda. The show was put on for 3 nights and we invited local primary schools in for the matinee performance. Previous musicals of grease also included a live band accompanying the show.

We have been lucky enough to engage in song-writing and composition workshops delivered through the RNCM which really impacted our KS4 pupils and supported them in understanding how compositions are developed and how to begin composing.

In the future

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

Our plans to develop the Music provision at Alder are listed below;

1) To improve attendance to extra-curricular music clubs. We intend to do this through moving band ensembles to after-school rather than brunch and extending rehearsal time from 30 mins weekly to one hour. To begin ensemble sign ups in the first week of the academic year. To advertise extra-curricular music in the first curriculum lesson for

each year group. To engaged in more performances so pupils rehearsals are meaningful and with purpose.

2) To provide further performance opportunities. In addition to the annual carol concert and summer showcase to include a battle of the bands evening as many of our performers play typical pop/rock instruments. Over the coming years to increase the musical theatre show to a yearly spring event rather than bi-annual

3) To increase opportunities for music outside of the classroom. We intend to offer free form time instrumental lessons to KS3 pupils who did not receive PP or LAC funding and who are keen to learn an instrument. Flute, piano and voice will be offered in the first instance. As part of our We Are Alder enrichment initiative we plan to deliver a whole year group project fusing music. Drama and art looking at Samba/Latin America.

Further information

- Anthem instrumental lessons sign up

SIGN UP FORM		ALDER COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL		2024-2025	
<p>To sign up for lessons please scan the QR code and fill out the online form or fill in the form overleaf, hand it into your music teacher and we will get in touch with you.</p> <p>COST:</p> <p>30 minute small group lesson £10.50 per lesson</p> <p>30 minute 1:1 lessons £18 per lesson</p> <p>AT YOUR SCHOOL WE CURRENTLY OFFER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Piano/Keyboard LessonsUkulele LessonsGuitar LessonsAcoustic Electric BassDrum LessonsSinging Lessons <p>CATCH UP LESSONS</p> <p>In order for us to provide a catch up alternative for a missed 1:1 lesson, cancellations must be made via the student portal (www.anthemtuition.co.uk) with a minimum of 48 hours notice</p> <p>Catch up lessons are not available for small group lessons</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>Please note that it is your son/daughter's responsibility to check their own lesson time and to make sure that they attend their lesson</p> <p>Please also note that if you wish to stop lessons at any time, half a term's notice (6 weeks) via email direct to Anthem Tuition will be required</p> <p>CONTACT</p> <p>Phone: 07580 761238</p> <p>Facebook.com/AnthemTuition</p> <p>info@anthemtuition.co.uk</p> <p>https://www.anthemtuition.co.uk/sign-up-form</p>					
					
		Name of student			
		School			
		Form			
		Instrument.....			
		Contact Name & Relationship to Student			
		Mobile Phone Number.....			
		Email Address.....			
		I understand that it is my son/daughter's responsibility to check their own lesson time and to make sure that they attend their lesson.			
		I also understand that if I wish to cancel their lessons at any time, I need to give a half term's notice in writing direct to Anthem Tuition (and not my child's teacher).			
		Signature:.....			
				INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS	

-Anthem extra-curricular opportunities [Courses | Anthem Tuition](#)

-Tameside music service extra-curricular opportunities: [TMS \(tamesidemusicservice.com\)](http://tamesidemusicservice.com)

MONDAY

4:30pm Junior Strings

5:00pm Senior Strings

6:45pm Chamber Strings

TUESDAY

4:30pm Junior Wind Band

5:00pm Brass Band

6:00pm Wind Band

WEDNESDAY

4:00pm Band Skills

5:00pm Band Skills

6:00pm Band Skills

7:00pm Band Skills

THURSDAY

4:30pm Infant Singing

4:30pm Music Theory

4:30pm Ukulele Group

5:15pm Junior Choir

5:45pm Jazz Band

6:00pm Senior Choir

Junior Strings

Warm and friendly group for Violin, Viola, Cello & Double Bass students from beginner to Grade 3.

Senior Strings

A wonderful group for all Violin, Viola, Cello & Double Bass students from Grade 3 onwards.

Junior Wind

Wind band for all woodwind and brass instruments, geared towards total beginners getting to know their instrument all the way up to grade 2.

Wind Band

A fantastic band for all woodwind and brass instruments from Grade 2 onwards.

Brass Band

A long running ensemble for all brass and percussion players (Tuned and Drum Kit) aged 11 and up. Playing a wide range of music including music from film and TV and more traditional brass band music in preparation for traditional events like Whit Friday.

Jazz Band

An accomplished group for players of Grade 3 and above on any instrument for students who have a desire to express themselves through improvisation and group composition in many styles including jazz and funk.

Band Skills

Various groups open to any skill level from year 4 upwards as long as the student has a basic understanding of their instrument. Perfect for students who want to be in a band to learn vital techniques like musicianship, microphone technique and the use of equipment and music technology in a group setting. Most commonly for instruments like Guitar, Bass, Drums, Keyboards, Vocals but open to any instrument.

Infant Singing

A fun session for all children aged 4 to 7 to start singing as part of a group. Songs are simple and energetic and the focus is to improve both their singing and listening skills.

Junior Choir

Opportunity for children from school years 3 to 6 to sing as part of a larger ensemble. Students will perform new arrangements of popular songs and learn essential techniques like singing in harmony and blending with others as well as listening skills.

Youth Choir

An exciting choir for ages 11 to 18 performing a wide variety of repertoire from pop to musical theatre. Ideal for anyone who loves singing and wants to learn essential skills of singing in a larger ensemble and to boost their confidence.

Ukulele Group

A group for school years 3 to 6 for anyone who wants to learn to play the Ukulele. A friendly and welcoming group for all abilities, it's fantastic fun!

SIGN UP