

Music development plan summary: Alder Community High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	1 st September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 st July 2027
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

Our music curriculum overviews can be found here on the school website

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 -9.

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 improve 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 all year groups, school band which is an opportunity for ensemble playing at any standard and this year we will have a musical band to support the rehearsals and performances of the whole school musical which will take place in February. 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 pupils have had the opportunity to take part in an outstanding Opera workshop this year run by Michael Jones of GMS Opera. Our pupils accessed a style of music which a lot had not had the experience of before and it was a fantastic workshop with pupils praising the experience,

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 -9 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.

Last year at Alder we adapted the location of our Christmas Carol concert to be within the school grounds and to have a Christmas market feel called 'carols by candlelight' The event really brought in the Christmas Spirit through many group, solo and duet performances aswell as a drama showcase. Again in 2026 pupils will have opportunity to take part in this musical experience. We also have 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 more collaborative workshops with GMS Opera. These events are 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.

In the Autumn Term the KS4 music pupils are attending a GCSE music set works performance at the Bridgewater hall. For many of our pupils this will be their first time seeing and hearing a live Orchestra so the experience will be enriching as well as supporting their undertaking of the GCSE course.

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. And this year we are putting on Little Shop of Horrors. The show will be put on for 3 nights and will also include a live band to accompany.

Throughout the academic year pupils also have opportunities to perform at Open evening, Parents evenings and Award events.

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. This academic year we moved band ensembles to after-school rather than brunch and extending rehearsal time from 30 mins weekly to one hour which pupils preferred so this will continue. 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 engage 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. This academic year We intended 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. We initially offered flute lessons which has shown success and there are now 7 consistent flute lessons happening in form time each week, We aim to transition these pupils into the bigger ensemble groups to support their growth and then add more form time instrumental lessons. 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

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

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

ANTHEM

MUSIC SCHOOL

ROCKSTAR MUSIC LESSONS

Turn school days into stage days!

At Anthem, every lesson builds towards something exciting. Students develop their musical skills in a fun, supportive environment before taking to the stage at our spectacular live concerts. Helping students build confidence and gain real performance experience that supports KS3/KS4 and beyond.



EXPERT TUTORS

Experienced, DBS-checked and passionate about teaching



FUN & ENGAGING

Lessons that build confidence, creativity and a love of music



PROVEN IMPACT

Improving wellbeing, focus and achievement



CONVENIENT

Timetabled during the school day



TRUSTED BY OVER 900 STUDENTS

SCHOOL SIGN UP

SCAN ME



Take part in our epic concerts twice per year!

All Anthem students have the opportunity to perform with a live band at our professional student showcases.

LESSON TYPE

PRICE



20 MIN SMALL GROUP
(MAX 4 STUDENTS)

£11.45



20 MIN 1:1 LESSON

£13.20



30 MIN 1:1 LESSON

£19.80

LESSONS AVAILABLE



PIANO



DRUMS



GUITAR



SINGING



STRINGS



BRASS



WOODWIND

Student Name:

Form:

Instrument:

Group or 1:1:

Parent Name:

Parent Signature:

Parent Phone:

Parent Email:

ALDER
COMMUNITY HIGH
SCHOOL



BUILD
CONFIDENCE



MAKE
FRIENDS



PLAY
REAL MUSIC



PERFORM ON
REAL STAGES