

Music development plan summary: Burton Borough School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Ms Alison Ruston
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr Ben Morgan
Name of local music hub	Telford and Wrekin
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils 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 pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' 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.

KS3 – All students in year 7-9 have a 1 hour Music lesson every week. The students follow a detailed curriculum which has been based around the Model Music 2021. The curriculum is based on 3 areas: performing, composing and listening and appraising. It allows students to explore a range of skills including singing, keyboard, ukulele, drums, and music technology.

KS4 – Students will follow the GCSE course using the OCR specification. At KS4 students have 5 lessons a fortnight, each lesson will last 1 hour. The course is weighted 60% practical coursework and 40% listening exam. Students will record 1 solo performance and 1 ensemble performance both on an instrument of their choice. They will create 1 free composition and 1

composition set to a brief by the exam board. The listening paper follows 4 areas of study.

AOS2 -The Concerto through Time

AOS3 – Rhythms of the World

AOS4 – Film Music

AOS5 – Conventions of Pop

Here is a link to our curriculum plan: [Curriculum Plan](#)

Instrumental Qualifications – All students who have instrumental and vocal lessons can take graded exams. The current price for exams starts at around £50. We currently use the following exam boards –

Piano – ABRSM and Trinity College

Keyboard – Trinity College

Brass – ABRSM and Trinity College

Woodwind – ABRSM and Trinity College

Guitar – Rock School

Drums – Trinity College

Singing – Rock School

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about providing 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.

Peripatetic Lessons – We are extremely proud of the range of peripatetic lessons we offer at the school. Lessons are taught by private teachers who liaise directly with parents/carers. The cost of lessons starts at £9.50 and are either 20 or 30 minutes long. Students who have Pupil Premium funding may be eligible to have lessons subsidised. We are currently offering an excellent opportunity for students to have free brass lessons at BBS. The department has a range of brass and woodwind instruments which can be loaned out.

We deliver lessons on the following instruments –

Piano and Keyboard

Singing – pop, musical theatre, classical repertoires

Woodwind – flute, clarinet, and saxophone

Brass – trumpet, French horn, baritone, euphonium, trombone and tuba.

Drums – drum kit

Guitar – electric guitar, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, ukulele

Here is a link to the information we give when pupils express an initial interest in tuition. [Instrumental Letter](#)

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Students have the opportunity to be part of a number of different groups. All extra-curricular groups are free of charge. The groups offered are –

BBS Concert Band – The school's Concert Band has a long tradition of excellence, performing both nationally and internationally. This group is suitable for students from grade 2 or above on brass, woodwind, or percussion instruments.

Junior Band – The Junior Band is open to all students of all abilities from year 5 – year 9. Any student who has started playing either a brass, woodwind, percussion, or string instrument can join this band. Our transition band is an excellent way for students from primary school to familiarise themselves with BBS, meet other like-minded students and perform exciting music together.

BBS Choir – The choir rehearse a range of contemporary and musical theatre repertoire. The choir is open to all students of all abilities and students do not need to audition to take part. The choir enjoys taking part in a range of performances in the community throughout the year.

Whole School Musical – All students can audition to be part of the whole school musical which is performed early in the spring term. Auditions take place in September and the cast rehearse every week learning a range of acting, singing and dance skills.

Practice Rooms – The department has 7 excellent purpose-built practice rooms available to students to book out on certain days to rehearse at lunchtime or after school in groups or individually.

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.

Students have the opportunity to take part in a number of events throughout the year. The events we have planned for the academic year 2024 -2025 are:

School Celebration Evening – An opportunity for soloists to perform from all years.

Open Evening – An opportunity for soloists to perform from all years.

Christmas Concert – This concert will involve all bands, choirs and a range of soloists. The concert is open to parents and the community and tickets are priced at £4 each.

School Musical – This show will involve students from years 7 – 11 and will run over 2 nights. There will also be a primary school performance for all local primary schools. The evening shows are open to all parents and the community and tickets are priced at £4 each.

Newport Big Sing – Each year we host the 'Newport Big Sing' which will involve all local primary schools and singers from BBS.

Easter Showcase Concert – An opportunity for all music, drama and dance students to perform in a showcase concert.

Newport Show – An opportunity for soloists and small vocal groups to perform in one of the largest outdoor events in the county.

Summer Celebration Concert – An evening of celebration, where music awards are handed out in recognition of excellence throughout the year. This concert will involve all bands, choirs, and a range of soloists.

Assembly Performances – Students are always encouraged to perform in assemblies and are an integral part to our end of term assemblies.

Professional Performances – We have had a number of professional groups in school to perform to our students over the 2023-2024 academic year including The Royal Marines and The Mercians, and we hope to be able to welcome them and other groups again this year.

In the future

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

As a department we are always looking at ways we can improve the musical experience for our students. This year we are looking to add the following into our department plans:

- Introducing string lessons - These will be available from September 2024 through the Telford and Wrekin Music service. [Here is a link to apply for Violin lessons: Violin Lessons](#)
- Inviting year 5 and 6 students to join our choir.
- Introducing a new music technology / song writing club. This group will start in the spring term and will be open to all students to attend.
- A trip to the theatre to watch a musical – this will be open to all students to attend.
- A trip to a concert hall to listen to a live orchestra or band.
- An opportunity for all year 7 and 8 students to listen to a live orchestra.

Further information (optional)

Since the Head of Music took up her position in 2004 the Burton Borough School Bands have been successful both Nationally and Internationally. Winning the following awards:

- NCBF (The National Concert Band Festival) - 38 Platinum Awards, 25 Gold Awards, 5 Silver Awards [National Concert Band Festival - What It Is All About](#)
- World Music Contest Kerkrade – 1 Bronze award and 2 Silver awards [Burton Borough School Concert Band - Persis WMC Kerkrade 2017](#)
- Youth World Music Contest Zurich – 1 silver award
- Great North Jazz Festival – 1st Place, Best programme