



MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024-2025

PART A: CURRICULUM MUSIC

Our Vision

Our mission is to ignite creativity, uncover potential, and develop transferable skills through the arts, moulding creative, happy, and successful students at CHS South and beyond.

Our subject intends to inspire, provide motivation and nurture passion for all students to help them develop their musicianship and transferrable skills further. Studying music shows a real drive and determination to improve ourselves, not only as musicians but also humans. It has been scientifically proven that playing an instrument or singing releases endorphins which promotes wellbeing and we harness this as a department to support students on their creative, happy and successful journey through school.

Students are expected to take music lessons if they opt for GCSE, whether in school or outside, as performance makes up 30% of the final grade. They learn appraisal skills in relation to set study pieces and there are many opportunities to compose as well as develop skills as a performer.

Students opting for BTEC Music Practice (Production pathway) need to have a basic understanding of composing using a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW). BTEC students develop knowledge of key musical genres and the music industry, how to produce a musical product, they get a hands-on knowledge of recording and working within a studio and also learn how to compose music.

Studying music enables students to develop highly desirable skills in areas such as self-management, creativity, data analysis, performance, teamwork, problem-solving, and communication, all of which makes them an attractive prospect for potential employers. There are numerous careers that anyone studying Music or Music Technology could go into, such as session musician, sound engineer, tour manager, musical director, music or instrumental teacher or a job at a studio or record label.

Curriculum Music Provision

- In Year 7 & 8, our students have one hour of music per week.
- In Year 9, all students have one hour of music per fortnight.
- We also offer an 'arts elective' in year 9, where students have the opportunity to have an extra two hours of music or music technology per week.
- If students opt for GCSE Music (AQA Spec) or BTEC Music Practice in Year 10 & 11, students will receive five hours of music per fortnight.

What do our students learn in Music?

- Our curriculum is broad and knowledge-rich, with a focus on creating authentic musical experiences for our students.
- Students have the opportunity to develop their instrumental and vocal skills as soon as they begin in Year 7, focussing on keyboards to embed basic musical understanding. Throughout KS3, they explore different instruments such as ukulele and percussion, whilst continuing to gain confidence and expertise in vocal technique through ensemble singing in class.
- All KS3 students have the opportunity to perform solo, in small groups and as part of a class ensemble.
- At KS4, GCSE music students are expected and encouraged to take up 1-to-1 instrumental lessons, if not already undertaken, and given focussed ensemble and solo performance tuition. GCSE students are taught how to use notation software such as Musescore.
- BTEC Music Practice students are taught how to use industry standard music software, such as FL Studios. They are also taught how to record using microphones and our very own music studio!
- Detailed half termly breakdowns of how students achieve this can be found in our **Framework for Learning** documents.

PART B: EXTRA-CURRICULUM MUSIC

- At CHS South, we offer all students the opportunity to have 1-to-1 instrumental lessons with our fantastic visiting tutors. At present, we offer guitar, bass, drum kit, woodwind, brass, piano and singing tuition. Lessons take place once a week during school hours. At present, students can decide whether they want a 20 minute or 30 minute lesson per week. From September 2024, parents/carers will be billed directly by the tuition service providers, One Education and Create Music.
- Subsidised instrumental lessons are available for GCSE Music students who are entitled to certain benefits or from families struggling with financial hardship.
- Should you wish to express an interest in instrumental lessons at CHS South, please follow [**this link**](#) and complete the form.
- We are exceptionally proud to provide free Steel Pans lessons to students from families struggling with financial hardship. The school fully subsidises these lessons which allows so many of our students to take part in fantastic performance opportunities and develop their confidence through group performance.
- We have strong relationships with our local music services and schools within our trust, e.g. Chorlton High School and MEA. These relationships enable us to share in lots of different performance/concert opportunities such as Chorlton Arts Festival and Chorlton Young Musician.
- We have a strong extra-curricular offering at CHS South, which enables so many amazing musical opportunities to be extended to all of our students. These range from amazing school musicals to songwriting clubs, to GCSE revision clubs, to rock band clubs. In 2024, we aim to increase this further to include a CHS South choir and Samba Band!
- As a department, we aim to conduct trips to recording studios, professional musical performances and universities in 2024/25 to build our students' understanding of the music industry and experience professional performances in Manchester's amazing venues.
- Students have access to four well equipped practice rooms and a fully functioning music studio at CHS South. Students are able to book rooms out and can use them after school from Monday-Thursday every week.

PART C: MUSICAL EXPERIENCES

- At CHS South we strive to give our students as many enriching cultural experiences as we can. We try our utmost to keep these trips free for all students. If payment is required for a trip or part of one, the school will support families facing financial hardship wherever they can.
- Students are given the opportunity to perform at school events such as our open evenings, cultural evenings, art exhibitions, oracy showcases as well as specific music events. These performances range from solo instrumental/vocal performances to rock bands and Steel Pans ensembles.
- There will be opportunities for students to perform during assemblies and year group celebrations to display the talent within the school.
- There are annual school musicals and music showcase events to allow our students to showcase their musical achievements. Our music showcases celebrate the diverse array of performers we are so lucky to have at CHS South.
- Our strong local relationships have allowed some of our students to perform in venues within our community, giving them a taste for how a professional gig runs.
- We also encourage our students to take part in local music competitions and events such as 'Chorlton Young Musician of the Year'.
- There will be several trips throughout the year to expose our students to the inner workings of the music industry, how to pursue careers within the industry, and experience professional music performances in both the classical and popular music worlds. Our students will have the opportunity to visit professional music studios, esteemed universities, and world-famous music venues.

IN THE FUTURE

- Over the coming academic year, we aim to establish more extracurricular opportunities for our students such as a choir and a Samba band.
- We also aim to provide more regular performance opportunities in school for our students, for example in assemblies, for our governors, and smaller school events.
- We will continue to make links with our local community and enable students to perform outside of school in places like care homes, primary schools, cafes and public spaces.
- We will also aim to increase our peripatetic music provision to further promote instrumental performance within our school.