

Music development plan summary: Dartford Science and Technology College

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	December 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Cormac Dorrian
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Joanna Donegan-Edwards
Name of local music hub	Kent Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

In Years 7-9, students have a one hour music lesson every week where they develop their performing, composing and listening skills through an array of musical genres, instruments and ensembles. The Key Stage 3 curriculum requires students to be able to collaborate by composing and performing. They develop understanding of music and are encouraged to show critical analysis of music through listening to and performing music. We aim to show the impact of the diversity of music by studying different cultural and historical influences.

We encourage students to be enquiring in the development of their ideas. Developing their confidence is a vital part of our curriculum and students are frequently challenged to perform their ideas to each other whilst being encouraged to evaluate the success of the performances.

We deliver our topics in three lots of 10 week lessons with a focus on learning key music skills. All units conclude with a presentation of compositions and/or

performances and all students are given the opportunity to display their understanding of the topic. Every student gains performance skills such as accuracy, fluency and timing. Within the study of each unit, students gain knowledge of basic music theory such as rhythmic and treble clef notation, dynamics, tempo and texture.

In Key Stage 4, we offer BTEC Music which introduces students to the world of music, the wide range of careers and a greater understanding of the music industry. It is taught in a way where students are encouraged to take creative control and equip them with highly developed musical skill, knowledge and understanding. Our schemes of work are in line with those approved by the exam board and adapted to suit all learners to ensure the curriculum remains ambitious but is inclusive. Music is taught for three hours a week.

In the first year of the course, students will gain skills and understanding in three main areas:

Performance skills

This can be instrumental, vocal or technology based performing, for example, DJ skills, live looping, control devices.

Composition skills

Students can use traditional notation, for example, written or software based or by using DAWs (Digital Audio Workstations) or other suitable technology.

Production skills

Students will use DAWs such as Mixcraft or Logic Pro.

In the second year, students will study production and performance or composition. The course is assessed both internally and externally; Components 1 and 2 are internal and Component 3 is external. The uptake is good and in line with the national average of 7%.

Details of our Music Curriculum sequence can be found on the school website.

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.

The Music Department aims to provide extra-curricular activities and performance opportunities for all students, including Choir, DSTC Radio, Podcast production and Band clubs. The Music Department works extremely closely with the Dance

department to ensure students have a consistent learning experience within the Performing Arts.

At DSTC, there are currently four main ensembles that students are welcome to join. There are currently approximately 50 students who regularly participate in these ensembles. These are:

- DSTC Choir
- DSTC Singers
- Rock Band
- School production

For students who play pop/rock-based instruments such as drums, guitar and piano, there is the opportunity to form a student-led band and perform at school events such as the winter concert and other performance evenings. Students in all year-groups are able to attend.

DSTC also regularly puts on an annual musical where students are able to audition. There are leading and ensemble roles. There are also opportunities for students to be part of the back-stage, technical and lighting crew so that everyone has the opportunity to get involved. This is advertised for students in Y7-10 due to examination commitments for Year 11. Post 16 students can opt to perform or assist and our Post 16 leadership team are involved in ticket sales and assisting on the performance evenings.

It was our aim to introduce peripatetic music lessons for the start of the academic year. The subject leader for Music met with Kent Music to discuss strategies to implement this. We have applied to access the bursary scheme with an initial plan to develop Piano/Keyboard & Guitar lessons as a priority.

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.

DSTC tries to put on three performance opportunities per year. These usually consist of an item from each of the school groups, one or two solo items and performances from the school musical group which could be drama, dance or music based. The whole school will be invited to attend and students have a chance to participate but they may also be a member of the audience. Students also have the opportunity to be involved in other areas including back-stage, technical and lighting groups. Students from all year groups are invited to participate. For larger events, our local feeder primary schools are invited to a matinee performance.

Students are also invited to perform at school events such as the senior citizens afternoon tea, during celebration assemblies and open events where we have had performances from solo singers, dancers and larger ensembles groups. In our annual Community Day, our students are able to perform for the local community and we have

previously sung at Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford Shopping Centre and various care homes.

When rehearsals are not taking place, students have the opportunity to use the music space which gives them experience of playing in front of their peers in a safe space. Our plan is to offer a Live at Lunch event every half term where students can perform in front of other students and gain confidence and practice their sets to prepare them for future performances.

DSTC aims to put on an annual Musical which is often the highlight of the year. The shows are of a high quality and have included High School Musical, Aladdin and Matilda in recent years. Due to the difficulty of the parts, students are required to audition.

For larger concerts and events, parents and students are encouraged to purchase tickets for a nominal fee. The money raised goes towards the school's chosen charity and back into the music department to help pay for musical rights and technical equipment. If students or parents are not able to pay, they are able to contact the school office. It is our belief that everyone should be able to attend and support without the need to worry about costs.

Students who choose to take GCSE music are offered the opportunity to attend a musical visit along with the Dance students. They have seen Hamilton, Wicked, The Lion King and Frozen. We always try to seek other related trips, visits and events to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the exam boards' set work.

We have a comprehensive trips and visits schedule where students from all year groups are given opportunities to attend visits across curriculum areas which include music, dance and drama. Students have previously attended concerts and along with our Post 16 Media students, attend visits such as ER Productions to learn about how music is portrayed in the media.

In the future

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

The goals for the subsequent years are:

Curriculum:

- To include more opportunities for low stake ensemble playing in KS3 and develop the new KS3 content
- Successful implementation of the the KS5 Music Production qualification

Beyond the Classroom:

- To introduce peripatetic instrumental lessons

- To fully establish Live at Lunch for student led bands to experience playing in front of an audience in a safe space
- To ensure smooth running of school performances including the winter concert, musical and summer event

Community & Partnership:

- To raise the awareness of local and national opportunities to students for them to experience music in the wider community

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

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.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.