



Music Development Plan



NEWARK
ACADEMY

Approved by:

Headteacher

Date:

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September 2024

Review date:

September 2025

Music development plan summary: Nottingham University Academy of Science and Technology

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr Ash Williams
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Miss Yvonne Elsey (Deputy Headteacher)
Name of local music hub	Inspire Music Hub (NCC)
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.

Newark Academy is a thriving, consistently high-achieving place of learning that ensures a broad range of National Curriculum subjects for Key Stage 3 students, which is both a standalone curriculum journey or a purposeful pathway which supports students in their preparation for GCSE and A Level opportunities.

Our Music curriculum has three main components, listening, composing and performing. Our curriculum intent seeks to drive a 'life-long love of learning' whilst promoting a natural desire for students to want to participate. Our range of music curriculums are diverse and inclusive, and as such, present a wealth of musical cultures which seeks to encourage and develop a listener's understanding and empathy beyond that of a typical Western tradition. By presenting broad, well-researched and musically rich examples, our musicians deepen their stylistic

understanding through musical appreciation. With an Academy-wide focus on oracy and reading, the learning is specifically shaped in a way which allows students to simultaneously enhance these fundamental skills. With a wide range of musical opportunities on offer, in and out of the music classroom, students are able to discover and enhance their own, personal musical preferences and tastes without restriction.

Our music provision is currently overseen and delivered by our Head of Expressive Arts, who is a music specialist with 10 years teaching experience in secondary education and in excess of 25 years service as a Warrant Officer Bandmaster leading His Majesty's Royal Marines. Additional support in the delivery of our Key Stage 3 curriculum has been ably supported by highly musical, non-specialist colleagues; A desirable and enviable strength of Newark Academy. September 2024 sees the appointment of an additional music specialist who will be responsible for the further design and development of our key stage 3 curriculum. A unique characteristic of our music provision at Newark Academy is that students have always experienced a standalone weekly music lesson, which is in fact increasing from 50 mins to an hour. It is worthy of note that many schools often deliver music as part of a rotation/carousel system which is not the case for us. Key Stage 4 students receive three hours each week which is allocated to allow proportional study of listening, composing and performing. Albeit in its trial phase, our A Level course receives a minimum of three hours with more allocated where possible. Additional learning time, coupled with the uplift of specialist teaching staff within the department will undoubtedly allow for a greater focus on the implementation and impact of our Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 curriculums respectively.

We are particularly proud to report that numbers of students now involved and immersed in our music offer has increased exponentially in the last five years. Despite having less than 1% of all pupils studying music in 2019 (the point at which music was re-launched), we now welcome 5% of students for instrumental or vocal lessons each and every week. Furthermore, this percentage invariably increases as we welcome new students each September. Within our music community, 27% of our music learners who access extracurricular musical activities and/or study an instrument/voice are Pupil Premium (PP) students, whilst 24% are SEN(D) students.

Students will have frequent opportunities to listen to, perform and compose music. Practical and theoretical skills will be honed through the fundamental use of a piano keyboard and the use a wide range of tuned and untuned percussion instruments. Pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding of key concepts, such as melody, articulation, dynamics, texture, structure, harmony, instrumentation, rhythm and tonality. Our Key Stage 3 curriculum learning journey invites students to appreciate the Medieval period. Examples of Early music, it's simple instrumentation and the notable dominance of the Church provide a solid knowledge base which journeys through to the dissonance and complexities found in music of the 20th Century. In addition, our year 9 students experience additional styles such as, Blues, African Music, TV and Film Music and Reggae. In this culminating KS3 year, pupils

are introduced to the Digital Audio Workspace (DAW) and sound effects, such as those delivered in a Foley Studio. Additionally, each unit provides the opportunity for students to compose in a specific style using Bandlab, a leading music-writing platform. Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is intentionally aligned with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) music theory syllabus. It is hoped this year, that classroom learning can support students who then wish to pursue the ABRSM Grade 1 Music Theory qualification which attracts UCAS points.

Key Stage 4 students who opt to study music, do so through our AQA GCSE programme.

The course components are:

- Section A: 8271/P Performing (30%)
- Section B: 9271/C Composing (30%)
- Section C: 8271/W Listening/Contextual Understanding (40%)

With 60% of the course dedicated to NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) where pupils are required to perform and compose, providing two performances (4 mins total) and two compositions (3 mins total) Performances are generally expected to be at a Grade 5 level, whilst compositions need to evidence a secure understanding of harmony and use of the other musical elements. The written paper accounts for the remaining 40% and features Part A: Listening and Part B: Contextual Understanding. Part A requires students to respond to for key areas of study:

- AoS 1: Western Classical Tradition 1650 – 1910
- AoS 2: Popular Music
- AoS 3: Traditional Music
- AoS 4: Western Classical Music since 1910

Part B: Contextual Understanding features a mandatory area of study (Q9) which is currently *Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A major, K. 622, 3rd movement, Rondo* although this year will see it be replaced in the curriculum by *Beethoven's Symphony No. 1, Movement 1: Adagio molto – Allegro con brio*. We also currently study three songs from the Broadway Musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, however this too, will be replaced in the learning by the following Queen tracks, *Bohemian Rhapsody, The Seven Seas of Rhye, Love of my Life*; All new material will be taught for the first time from September 2024 and examined in 2026. As a next step from Key Stage 3, our Key Stage 4 curriculum also intentionally is aligned to much of the content required to achieve the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) music theory examinations. Our KS4 students will be presented with the opportunity to pursue the ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory qualification, which not only attracts UCAS points but allows for progression to practical examinations at Grades 6, 7 and 8.

KS5 music study has also been introduced and currently has students both in Year 12 and 13 (examination year). The AQA A Level course (7272) is structured in a similar

way to its precursor GCSE, however there is an obvious and far more explicit expectation around the need to critically analyse, perform and compose music in greater depth.

The course components are:

- Section A: Listening (56 marks)
- Section B: Analysis (34 marks)
- Section C: Essay (30 marks)

As a final step from Key Stage 4, our Key Stage 5 curriculum sits neatly alongside the culminating Grade 8 Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Theory Examination. KS5 students are presented with the opportunity to sit the ABRSM Grade 8 Music Theory qualification which attracts 31 UCAS points and is a highly desirable musical qualification.

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.

At Newark Academy, instrumental and vocal lessons are commonplace for students wishing to study music beyond the classroom. We offer this in partnership with Inspire Music Hub and currently students can learn the following through this provision:

Brass

Strings

Woodwind

Keys

Vocal

Guitar

Drums/Percussion

It is intended that during 24/25 students who are in receipt of pupil premium funding/FSM or exemptions* will continue to be eligible for FoC/subsidised instrumental lesson/vocal tuition. Should you wish to know more about this offer, please email office@newarkacademy.co.uk in the first instance.

Newark Academy has a well-integrated and fully established programme supporting co-curricular performance. Formal recitals, Christmas Concerts and Summer Spectaculars are key features of our Academy diary with each event involving numerous musicians and vocalists from all three key stages. Newark Academy students also participate in the Nova Trust Orchestra which is a collaborative ensemble made up of instrumentalists from across the Nova Education Trust. The Orchestra

provides opportunities for students to experience performing in high-profile public events.

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 will continue to have the opportunity to be part of the Nova Trust Orchestra and attend rehearsals and performances at least three times per year.

We will continue to develop our Recital programme. With three periodic performance opportunities strategically placed across the year, instrumentalists, vocalists and DJs are all presented with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability and progress.

We will continue to develop our programme of inviting KS2 feeder schools to the Academy to experience matinee performances of our Christmas and Summer concerts. With feedback suggesting this is a hugely valuable and cherished opportunity for our young learners and prospective Year 7 students, we will be continuing to consider how we can further enhance inter-school relationships.

Head of Expressive Arts will continue to visit feeder schools to work with music classes, orchestras and other KS2 ensembles to further develop relationships and help build confidence amongst those progressing to KS3.

Newark Academy students are invited each year to attend a concert given locally by the RAF College Band. Providing the opportunity for aspiring musicians to experience a professional musical organisation continues to serve as a great stimulus and motivator to study music and participate in co-curricular opportunities. More information about this years concert can be found at: [RAF Music Charitable Trust - Concerts \(rafmct.org.uk\)](https://www.rafmct.org.uk)

Key Stage 4/5 students will experience the Set Works Concert delivered by the Halle Orchestra in the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. This annual event provides our GCSE and A Level students an opportunity to experience and enjoy the curriculum and the various areas of study through live, narrated performance. [Set Works Concert 2024 - The Hallé \(halle.co.uk\)](https://www.halle.co.uk)

Our Year 11, 12 and 13 music students will have an additional opportunity to enjoy the west-end show, *Hairspray* at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham. This exceptional performance provides key stimulus for AoS2: Popular Music (GCSE 8271/W) and AoS4: Music for Theatre (A Level 7272/W) [Hairspray, Theatre Royal, Nottingham \(trch.co.uk\)](https://www.trch.co.uk)

In the future

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

Review point	Action
	Embed additional music teacher to meet the demands of KS3 music curriculum.
	Increase the number of instrumentalists involved in the Nova Trust Orchestra.
	Resource the music department practice rooms to be able to provide independent IT/vocal opportunities
	Ensure at least one live performance experience for Year 7 students.
	Identify orchestral players for school performance, 'Bugsy Malone'
	Ensure at least three performance opportunities for instrumentalists across all key stages.
	Continue to develop music instrumental teaching so that Year 7 students are able to continue the instrumental teaching they received in their primary schools.
	Instigate ensemble opportunities with the support of the RAF RAF Music Services Royal Air Force (mod.uk) and Royal Marines Band Service Royal Navy - Royal Marines Band Service (mod.uk)
Spring 2024	Prepare orchestra ready to support forthcoming school production.
	Ensure at least one live performance experience for Year 7 students.
	Ensure at least two performance opportunities for instrumentalists.
Summer 2024	Develop and deepen links with the RNCM in order to provide an opportunity for KS5 students to experience a post-18 music institution The Royal Northern College of Music - Music Conservatoire (rncm.ac.uk)
	Review the curriculum offer for KS3 so that it continues to evolve and meet the needs and requirements of musicians regardless of option choices at Y9 pinch point.

Further information

Our Music Hub, INSPIRE has further information on the services they provide and can be found here – [Inspire Music: Teaching | Inspire - Culture, Learning, Libraries \(inspireculture.org.uk\)](https://www.inspireculture.org.uk)

The Department for Education has also published 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.