

Music development plan summary: Great Academy Ashton

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2023-2024
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	Oct 2024
Name of the school music lead	TBC
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Theresa James
Name of local music hub	Tameside Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	GAET Trust – music departments (Copley Academy/ Middleton Technology School)

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.

GAA Statement of Intention

Music has an inexplicable power to stimulate us intellectually and move us emotionally.

Our aims are for every student regardless of background or circumstance to be inspired, and to make progress to achieve the highest standards of musicianship. Our curriculum endeavours to achieve our aims in the key areas of singing, listening, composing and performing. We aim to develop powerful knowledge of musical concepts and creative skills through the study of a broad range of genres and through critical engagement with historical, social, moral, spiritual, and cultural contexts. Our curriculum teaches beyond what is required to pass examinations. It enriches the lives of our individual students and enables them to develop mature musical understanding and a lifelong appreciation of music.

Curriculum Features

Students build powerful knowledge and skills through performing, composing and listening.

They develop their vocal and instrumental fluency, accuracy and expressiveness in a range of solo and ensemble contexts.

They understand the threshold concepts of musical theory, identify and use the interrelated dimensions of music expressively and with increasing sophistication, including use of tonalities, scales, and musical devices.

They compose and improvise; extend and develop musical ideas, use staff and other relevant notations in a range of musical styles, genres and traditions.

They listen with increasing discrimination, and awareness to a wide range of music from great composers and musicians informing their practice as musicians and developing a deep understanding of the music that they perform and to which they listen, and its history.

The music department curriculum is outlined on the school website and the curriculum overview are as links below:

[GAA Curriculum Overview - Year 7.docx](#)

Year 7 During Year 7, students explore the elements of music through a variety of mediums and genres. Students will learn to analyse and describe the music that they listen to using music specific vocabulary. They will compose and perform in groups with the focus on effective music making and transferable skills. This year provides the opportunity for students to maintain and develop the invaluable skills of learning by ear, notation reading and rehearsing and performing as part of an ensemble. Students will be given the opportunity to compose and perform using their voices, body percussion, tuned and untuned percussion, ukuleles, and keyboards.

[GAA Curriculum Overview - Year 8.docx](#)

Year 8 In Year 8 students will continue to develop their skills in listening & appraising, performance and composition. They will develop their understanding and musical awareness through a range of workshops using their voices, ukuleles, classroom percussion, guitars and music technology. They will compose and record their own music using a range of notation including staff notation and TAB. They will also learn about different musical contexts, and perform in a variety of settings and genres. Students will explore different timbres, structures, and key characteristics, alongside using the musical elements to create music for a specific medium.

[GAA Curriculum Overview - Year 9.docx](#)

Year 9 In Year 9 students will develop their ability to recognise, analyse and demonstrate a range of music techniques; the aim of which is to produce successful and polished pieces of work, in preparation for the GCSE Music course. They will analyse, compose and perform music from different cultures, genres and musical traditions; learning how to plan and develop their compositions to create stylish and idiomatic pieces. They will create music for a range of different applications, including music for film and television. They will also have the opportunity to perform at a higher level in groups and on their own, developing their skills as musicians and again preparing the way for the GCSE Music course.

After each topic that is taught the students complete both a theory paper and practical element to combine a full score.

The KS3 curriculum is mapped against the skills and knowledge required for the GCSE OCR Music course and the BTEC Level1/ 2 in Music Practice.

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.

Co-curriculum Enrichment

Our music curriculum inspires our students to be involved in an extensive, diverse elective enrichment programme. Our inclusive ensembles and choirs are delivered by expert practitioners who nurture an enjoyment of performing whilst challenging our students to develop their musicianship.

We encourage our students to strive to achieve through graded music examinations and we provide quality opportunities to work in partnership with professional music organisations and conservatoires. Student ambassadors develop leadership skills by sharing their musicianship with their peers.

The students are encouraged to join the different ensembles of Great Singers, Rock/ Pop bands and vocal groups.

Music Tuition

All year 7 students are offered the chance/ opportunity to learn an instrument with a peripatetic teacher either one to one or as a small group (max of 3 students). The timetable is allocated to the students with a time slot of 20 minutes.

Great Academy Ashton currently offers guitar, ukelele, vocals, drums, piano/ keyboard and brass.

Students can complete the Trinity Music Exams or the ABRSM examinations on their chosen instrument (s).

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.

Musical Performances

All students will have the opportunity to perform in lessons to the class, at open evening, a termly concert to external audiences, within the community e.g. the local

residential home singing carols. Pupils will be selected to perform at the annual presentation evening.

Every 2 years Great Academy Ashton have a musical which is open to all students.

Musical Culture

Great Academy Ashton has links with local musicians such as The Halle Orchestra and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. The students will go to the Bridgewater Hall as a performance venue – aspirational.

The Peripatetic staff will perform as their own group to demonstrate performance techniques as a pop group/ band/ ensemble.

Visiting artists to Great Academy Ashton.

Community links with the local brass band.

Musical Theatre visits – The Palace Theatre/ The Opera House Manchester