# Music development plan summary:
## *Thornhill Community Academy - A SHARE Academy*
### Overview

| Detail | Information |
|---|---|
| Academic year that this summary covers | 2026/27 |
| Date this summary was published | September 2026 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | September 2027 |
| Name of the school music lead | Julien Laurent |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Nicola Stiff |
| Name of local music hub | Musica Kirklees |
| 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.

Music at Thornhill is designed for all students regardless of ability or experience and starts from the principle that it is an important part of being human, as we all interact with Music on a daily basis. The subject aims to engage all students in developing music specific skills but also in building important personal qualities including self-esteem, self-discipline and the ability to work with others.

At KS3, Music is taught in half termly rotation with Drama, giving the subject circa 18 hour-long lessons per year. As a result the curriculum is working towards the recommendations laid out in the model music curriculum (March 2021) and is designed to give students a range of experience centred on the three key musical skills of Performing, Composing and Listening with understanding. Students engage with a range of genres both old, new and from around the world, being given opportunities to gain new experience by thinking about and participating in music making. Music is made accessible to all students, including those with SEND, through differentiated teaching strategies.

Each scheme of learning gives students the opportunity to develop practical skills in whole class and small group scenarios using ukulele, guitar, keyboard, voice & percussion. Students also regularly work independently or in pairs to build their instrumental ability. Technology also has a vital role to play in music making today and students will be encouraged to explore the creative possibilities of sequencing software in both composing and recording projects.

The curriculum is interleaved so that prior learning is built upon between lessons and topics, to enable students to broaden their skills/experience and deepen their musical understanding and abilities. They will develop knowledge of music theory, relevant notations & the traditions/features of the styles covered.
As a result, music will be placed in context but students will also be expected to draw connections between genres, developing their ability to analyse and justify their opinions when discussing pieces.

At KS4 students are taught across 5 hour long sessions per fortnight. They continue to develop their skills in a vocational context on the Tech Award in Music Practice which is split into 3 components, 2 of which are internally assessed, with 1 being externally assessed.
*The KS4 curriculum is developed in line with the course requirements, but also so that prior learning is built upon.*

Students develop their appreciation of a range of genres (including Pop music from the 60s until the present day, Western classical music and Music for media) by listening to and practically exploring the iconic music of bands, composers and artists.
Students also experience the skills of being a performer, composer or producer, before specialising and improving their skills in two of the disciplines. Performers will learn repertoire and develop instrumental technique. Composers explore and extend ideas using a range of musical elements. Producers learn to input, edit and shape music using sequencing software.

The course culminates in a final exam in which students develop and present music in response to a given brief. As either a performer or producer, students will take a song offered by the exam board and prepare a recording in one of the styles covered during the course to demonstrate their creative skills and musical proficiency.

Students opting for music at KS4 are supported through instrumental/vocal tuition by visiting specialists from Musica Kirklees accessed with Pupil Premium (PP) funding as appropriate.

*Please click here to access the school music curriculum for each year.*

## 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-curricular music opportunities:

All students have access to extra-curricular musical opportunities on a weekly basis. These include the weekly band night - an hour after school enabling musicians of all years and ability to play in an ensemble. Lunchtime singing club for all years and a further lunchtime dedicated to any student who wants to try out and/or develop their instrumental skills using the space and resources available in the department. Music also makes a contribution to the rehearsing/staging of the school musical through another weekly after school session. Further music making facilities are provided by online access for all students to Yustudio music sequencing software.

Practise spaces are limited but instruments and rooms are provided where available.

Instrumental tuition is available from visiting Musica Kirklees staff with 4 visiting tutors offering lessons in guitar, piano, voice and drums. The school fully funds instrumental lessons for Pupil Premium (PP) and Looked After Children (LAC) students to enable access for all.

## 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.

Performance opportunities include:

Christmas based events including singing at a local residential home and for the community lunchtime event in school.

The School Musical which this year will be High School Musical, staged in HT4.

A showcase sharing student work from creative arts/technology to be staged in HT6.

Events/Trips include:

Visiting performance by &Piano, a trio giving KS3 students the opportunity to listen to live classical music free of charge.

Annual trip to the pantomime and a locally staged musical.

## In the future

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

Continue to promote involvement in instrumental lessons.

Explore further opportunities for sharing learner work both live and online.

More regular opportunities for instrumentalists to perform for peers.

Increase opportunities for students to experience live performance with the aim of there being at least an experience per year group per year.

Seek opportunities for Music specific trips including making links with local colleges.

## 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.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.