



### *Music Development Plan*

#### Overview

Academic Year this covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	August 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the Head of Music	Catherine Bowden
Name of the SLT member with responsibility for music	Jo Holdsworth
Name of Local music hub	Buckinghamshire Music Service

#### Part A: Music Curriculum

- All students study music in Key Stage 3 for 2 hours a fortnight in Year 7, 8 and 9.
- Music is an option at GCSE where students get 5 hours a fortnight in Year 10 and 4 hours a fortnight in Year 11.
- Music is an option at A-Level, and students get 9 hours a fortnight.
- The Key Stage 3 music curriculum is guided by the National Plan for Music, the Model Music Curriculum as well as the National Curriculum for music.
- All lessons and resources are carefully planned to provide ordinarily available provision (OAP) so all lessons can be accessed by students.

#### Key Stage 3 Curriculum

At Beaconsfield High School our focus at KS3 is to give all pupils significant musical experiences through practical composition and performance-based study. Music lessons are practical, rigorous, theoretically grounded and contextualised. The aim is to give all pupils a basis for continuing their music-making beyond KS3 whether they choose to take GCSE or not.

Each half term will include:

- **Integration of Practice** – playing, listening, composing (knowing through doing)
- **Cultural Understanding** – Why does this music exist? Who plays it/listens to it?
- **Critical Understanding** – What are the important musical features that are essential to this type of music?
- **Creativity** – Opportunities to make something new based on musical features
- **Communication** – What is this music ‘saying?’ What can I make my music ‘say?’

#### Part B: Co-Curricular Provision

Co-curricular music plays a significant role in the daily life of students at Beaconsfield High School.

#### Ensembles

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We have an extensive range of lunchtime and after school ensembles available for students. These range from open membership to auditioned ensembles. At present, we have over 200 students participating in these ensembles. We currently have:

- Eight choirs
- Symphony Orchestra
- Concert Band
- Senior/ Junior flutes
- Senior/ Junior strings
- Brass Ensemble
- Clarinet Choir
- Guitar Ensemble

### **Individual Music Lessons**

Instrumental lessons are offered by our strong team of 14 peripatetic music staff, and we have over 200 students that have 1-1 lessons each week. These lessons are paid for by families, although there is some support available for those students in receipt of Pupil Premium.

We offer termly ABRSM exams and musical theatre exams in the summer term. Entry is completed through the school with the option of having the school accompanist (at an extra fee) to support the exam.

Any enquiries about individual music lessons should be made to the music administrator, Mrs Craggs.  
([music@beaconsfieldhigh.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:music@beaconsfieldhigh.bucks.sch.uk))

### **Part C Musical Experiences**

There is a wealth of performance opportunities for students throughout the year.

In lessons, students are encouraged to perform regularly to each other, and these performances are often showcased in the achievement assemblies at the end of each term. The Year 7 students compete in the annual House Singing Competition in which they choreograph and perform a song of their choice to suit the theme.

Each term, there is a large concert to showcase all the ensembles. We have the recent addition of the whole school musical, which also provides further opportunities for students.

We also look to provide opportunities for performances within the community. More recently, this has included a performance at Christmas in a local nursing home, a performance for a local WI Christmas event, and performances in the local church for their lunchtime recital series.

Our Chamber Choir has regularly entered competitions, and most recently won the Manchester Amateur Choral Choir competition, competing against a range of different choirs, including the Manchester University Chamber Choir.

Soloists regularly perform at school open events, and the annual music competition allows students to receive feedback on pieces they are working on. The finalists then perform live to a judge as part of the finalists' concert.

Our GCSE and A-Level students often go on trips to see live performances to support them in their studies, including *Wicked* more recently.

We offer students the opportunity to conduct and run ensembles with staff support. We currently have four student-run ensembles.

## **Part D: In the Future**

The number of students playing brass instruments has declined and is often not seen as an instrument for girls. To support this, we will be providing taster lessons in the trombone for students to have group lessons.

We will be hosting an instrumental taster session for students to try out different instruments to promote certain instruments such as the oboe, bassoon, trombone, French horn and saxophone.

We are looking to offer more trips to live performances for Key Stage 3 students, and workshops to enhance the curriculum music offering.

We are conducting a complete audit of our co-curricular provision and peripatetic lessons, to analyse which of our students are engaging with this offering. This will help with next year's music development plan, to ensure we are engaging more students and offering opportunities relevant to them.