

# Music development plan summary: The Rochester Grammar School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Dice Wood
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Daniel Lloyd
Name of local music hub	Kent Music School
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**

### **Year 7**

Students receive two lessons per fortnight, through which we introduce the core elements of Music Education, which is analysis, composition and performing. Students cultivate these skills individually, in small groups and as part of the whole class, in addition to being given a basic grounding in the key concepts of music such as melody and harmony etc. Students are taught fundamental performance, composition and analysis skills and are introduced to Sibelius, the industry-standard music notation software.

Modules include:

- What is rhythm, metre and tempo?
- What are rounds and how do they work?
- Fanfares and the Orchestra
- How do 'Great Composers' make interesting music?
- What are 4 chord songs?

### **Year 8**

Students receive three lessons per fortnight in which they expand and develop the basic skills taught in year 7 and apply them to wide variety of genres. Students are introduced to music and cultures from across the world and focus on building their knowledge and applying their skills to increasingly challenging music allowing them to increasingly develop their self-confidence and creativity. Students study a number of set works in depth.

Modules include:

- Musicals
- Ragas and Talas
- Film Music
- 20<sup>th</sup> century music – how to use harmony and melody
- Minimalism

### **Year 9**

Students receive two lessons per fortnight. Students further develop the skills and knowledge gained in years 7 and 8 to provide a bridge to GCSE Music.

Modules include:

- Blues
- Jazz
- Composing pop songs
- Hip Hop
- Exploring Music – self-directed study

## **GCSE**

In Years 10 and 11 students study GCSE Music where they develop their skills in composition, solo and ensemble performance, and listening. Students learn about a wide range of styles including:

- Popular Music
- Baroque & Classical eras
- Music for Film
- Musicals
- Fusions

They create two compositions, one free choice and one to a brief released in the year of examination. There are two performances, one solo and one ensemble. They learn about set works (assigned by the examination board) as well as wider listening.

At the end of the course they take an examination that is made up of short answer questions and one essay question.

## **Sixth Form**

In Year 12 we study Eduqas A-Level Music. The areas of study are:

- Development of the Symphony
- Musical Theatre

- Into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

They can take either a performance or composition majority route. Performances are assessed by a visiting external examiner in Year 13. Compositions are assessed externally by the exam board.

There is one written paper in Year 13 exam period.

In Year 13 students study the International Baccalaureate. In this wide ranging course they study modules on:

- Exploring Music in Context
- Experimenting with Music
- Presenting Music

If they take Higher Level they also study

- The Contemporary Music Maker

These modules challenge students to work as a creator, performer and researcher.

Year 13 Students also have the option to write an Extended Essay on a Music subject.

## **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 The Rochester Grammar School we have 14 visiting instrumental teachers, covering:

- Violin
- 'Cello
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Flute

- Recorder
- Brass
- Piano/Keyboard
- Guitar
- Drums
- Percussion
- Voice

Lessons are mostly individual, however, some lessons are in groups, for example Violin.

Instruments are available for loan/hire through Kent Music School.

At The Rochester Grammar School we have a team of music specialists that help support students in their learning, including our Music Technician and a Choral Director, as well as 2 additional teaching staff.

We have a wide array of opportunities for students outside of curriculum music including:

- Year 7 Choir
- NChant (an auditioned choir Year 9-13)
- KS3 choir (auditioned)
- Gospel Choir (student led with staff support)
- Community Choir (all students and staff welcome)
- Tech Club
- Orchestra

Biannually we also put on a Musical Production – the last production was Grease. This year we are working on Everybody's Talking About Jamie Teen Edition.

Students get regular opportunities to complete workshops and perform as opportunities arise. Last year students complete a workshop with The Sixteen, performed in the finals of Barnardo's Choir of the Year competition and regularly performed at Rochester Cathedral. All students are invited to take part in the school Carol Service and our Founders Day service at the Cathedral. Informal tea-time concerts allow 6<sup>th</sup> form students to record their performances for IB in front of a live audience.

Our Music Technician helps bands to form and expand their repertoire, culminating in two 'Rock and Raise' concerts each year where bands perform to parents and friends.

Students from our Tech Club provided the back-stage work on sound and lighting for all music events, including the upcoming musical.

Some students are being trained up to be group leaders, particularly in choral skills, leading to our Gospel Choir currently being student led with staff support.

Locally the Medway Music Centre are offering a Wind Band and Orchestra that students are welcome to attend. Details are on display in the Music Department. Other groups such as the country orchestra are also displayed in our noticeboard, as well as upcoming concerts by local music groups such as Maidstone Symphony Orchestra, The Barn Orchestra etc.

## 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.

The following events are planned for the 2025-26 Academic Year:

- December 2025 – Carol Service at Rochester Cathedral
- July 2025 House Arts events (including music based competitions)
- July 2025 Founders Day Service at Rochester Cathedral

More will be added as opportunities arise.

Dates to be confirmed:

- Rock and Raise concerts
- Tea Time concerts (informal)

Singing Assemblies are regularly held in Years 7, 8 and 9, building on the work introducing these last year.

## In the future

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

We are working hard to continue to develop our curriculum to suit the needs of our learners with new schemes of work in Years 7, 10, 11 and 12 this academic year. The changes to the Key Stage 3 curriculum which will take place on a rolling programme

will help make GCSE Music accessible for all, regardless of whether they can afford instrumental lessons.

We hope to introduce more trips to allow students to access live music experiences.

Opportunities are also being sought to collaborate with local groups to allow students to hear their compositions being performed with a local orchestra.

## **Further information (optional)**

--