

Music development plan summary: The Rochester Grammar School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-5
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
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)	Dynamics

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:

- Elements of Music
- Keyboard Skills
- Instruments of the Orchestra
- Structure and Sibelius
- Great Composers

At the start of Year 7 students are encouraged to perform to their classes items they have been learning outside of lesson. This usually happens in the third lesson of the year.

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
- Electronic Dance Music (EDM)
- Film Music
- Minimalism
- Folk Music of the British Isles

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
- Remixes
- Song Writing
- Sibelius
- Hip Hop & Rap

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 Years 12 and 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.

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 or Dynamics Instrument Hub.

At The Rochester Grammar School we have a team of music specialists that help support students in their learning, including our 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)
- Chorisma (a choir for years 4-8, including local primary students – auditioned)
- Young Voices Choir – preparing for a performance at the O2 (Years 7-9)
- Keyboard Club
- Tech Club
- Orchestra

Students get regular opportunities to complete workshops and perform. For example NChant are completing a workshop with The Sixteen in September, and a fundraising concert in March. All students are invited to take part in the school Carol Service and our Founders Day service at Rochester Cathedral. Informal tea-time concerts are being reintroduced this year to offer students the opportunity to hone their performance skills, with the aim to build to whole school performances.

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.

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.

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 2024-25 Academic Year:

- 25th September Chorisma workshop with internationally renowned choir The Sixteen
- NChant are submitting an application to perform as part of the Commonwealth Relay event.
- Nchant will perform Evensong at Rochester Cathedral with the Cathedral choir in November and July

- NChant will be entering the Barnardo's National Choral Competition in December
- December 2024 – Carol Service at Rochester Cathedral
- February 2025 Young Voices at the O2
- 15th March Chorisma performing with The Sing to the Lord Choir in a fundraising performance
- Multicultural showcase in school May 2025
- July 2025 House Arts events (including music based competitions)
- July 2025 Founders Day Service at Rochester Cathedral

Dates to be confirmed:

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

Singing Assemblies are being introduced in Years 7, 8 and 9 in Term 1 of the academic year.

In the future

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

We are looking to develop our Music Department leadership skill opportunities further (enhancing on the programme we have for technicians), including opportunities for students to learn how to conduct, arrange music and take rehearsals in a variety of ensembles.

We are also looking to revise areas of the Key Stage 3 curriculum to further develop performance skills in order to ensure all students are able to access GCSE Music regardless of their ability to take peripatetic lessons, with a view to introducing the revised curriculum to Year 7 in the 2025-6 academic year.

It is hoped to introduce annual trips to musicals with students enabling them to do workshops with cast members and then see matinees, as well as to find wider opportunities for students to hear professional level music both inside and outside of school.

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