

Music development plan summary:

The De Montfort School (TDMS) *part of Four Stones Gateway Trust*

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2027
Name of the school music lead	Peter Stones
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Charlotte Ross
Name of local music hub	Seven Arts
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	<i>Other secondary schools that Four Stones Gateway Trust also includes:</i> King Charles I School and Sixth Form Centre Haybridge High School and Sixth Form Lacon Childe School

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students 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 Students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students’ 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 students can achieve.

Curriculum:

At TDMS, the music curriculum is delivered via fortnightly one-hour lessons for Years 6, a carousel of lessons for Year 7 and 8 as well as weekly lessons for Year 9 students. The Year 7 and 8 carousel consists of 7 lessons per fortnight for a period of 6 weeks, during the school year. Our department consists of one full time music specialist (Head of Department) who designs and deliver the curriculum across all Key Stages and two full time performing arts specialists who support with KS2/3. The Head of Department specialises in a classical music background (classical trombone having studied at the Birmingham Conservatoire) however has an acute appreciation for contemporary music, performing jazz extensively and working as a published composer/arranger. The department offers a well-rounded and diverse approach to music education.

Our curriculum is comprised of the four strands outlined in the model music curriculum: singing, listening, composing and performance. Our department aims to provide a comprehensive and engaging music education that fosters a lifelong love of music and supports students' creative and personal growth.

Key elements of our curriculum informed by the model music curriculum include:

1. **Development of musical skill:** The curriculum is designed to develop students' musical skills, year on year, ensuring a coherent learning experience.
2. **Broadening of student's musical repertoire:** Students are exposed to a wide variety of musical genres and styles, promoting cultural capital and an appreciation of music they may not necessarily be exposed to otherwise.
3. **Practical musical tasks:** There is a strong emphasis on practical activities, including singing, instrumental playing, and composing, to develop hands-on musical skills.
4. **Listening and appraising:** Students are encouraged to listen critically and appraise different types of music in lessons and in homework tasks, to develop their listening and appraisal skills.
5. **Whole-Class ensemble teaching:** Our curriculum includes opportunities for whole-class ensemble teaching, developing skillsets in keyboard, guitar and vocal.
6. **Teamwork and collaboration:** Playing in an ensemble teaches students the importance of working together, listening to others, and contributing to a group effort. This collaboration helps build the social skills of our students.
7. **Performance opportunities:** Students often get opportunities to perform in front of their peers, receive feedback from peers and teachers and have opportunities to participate in school events, which builds the confidence of our students.

The below illustrates our curriculum topics in Key Stage 2 and 3.

Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Find Your Voice	West African Music	Classical Piano	Rock Bands
			Pachelbel's Cannon
Ukulele skills	Reggae	Film Music	Live Lounge
			Electronic Dance Music
Musicals	Blues Music	Pop Piano	Video Game Music
			The Music Industry

A link to further information, along with our vision for SMSC in the department is outlined in our curriculum document available [here](#).

SEND and Vulnerable Learners:

In the music department, we also strive to increase access for our students with special educational needs (SEND) by implementing several inclusive strategies:

1. **Differentiated instruction:** Our music curriculum is differentiated to meet the diverse needs of SEND students. Teachers use varied methods to accommodate different learning needs and abilities, ensuring that every student can engage with the curriculum effectively.
2. **Specialist support:** We have specialist teaching assistants trained in SEND who work alongside classroom teachers to provide additional support where required. These teaching assistants offer one-on-one support for specific needs.
3. **Collaboration with SEND HUB staff:** The department regularly communicates with the school's SENDCo team and support staff to share insights and strategies for supporting students and ensures a cohesive approach to each student's education.
4. **Parental involvement:** We actively involve parents and carers in the music education process, keeping them informed about their child's progress and providing resources for support through homework tasks and listening activities and our extra-curricular programme.

Music Partnerships:

Our department also benefits from several key partnerships:

1. **Local music hub partnership:** We collaborate closely with our local music hub, Severn Arts, which provide instrumental tuition, additional school resources, additional workshop opportunities for our students. This partnership allows us access to workshops, and performance opportunities that enrich our music program.
2. **Music education organisations:** We have recently established connections with music education organisations such as Symphony Hall Birmingham, the BBC, the Academy of Contemporary Music and Birmingham Conservatoire. These partnerships include visiting workshops, masterclasses, and specialised support for students, showing them the opportunities and further studies that are available in music.
3. **Community:** Our department has developed positive relationships within the local community such as the All-Saints Church in Evesham, offering students the chance to participate in broader musical activities and performance opportunities outside of the classroom.

Key Stage 4 - GCSE:

At TDMS we offer the [GCSE Eduqas specification](#) for students in years 10 and 11. This builds upon the appraisal, listening, composition and performance skills learnt in key stages 2 and 3 and further broadens the musical repertoire of students under four areas of study, these are:

- Area of Study 1: Musical forms and Devices
- Area of Study 2: Music for Ensemble
- Area of Study 3: Film Music
- Area of Study 4: Popular music and Bhangra

The qualification is broken down into three strands of assessment:

- Composition 30%
- Performance 30%
- Listening and Appraisal examination 40%

Key Stage 5 - A Level:

BTEC level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance:

This [course](#) provides a more in-depth study of music which deepens students' knowledge of this multi-faceted subject as well as giving them a real-world insight into the music industry. Students develop key skills in performance and composition together with music theory and music business. This qualification

will enable students to pursue higher education studies in music and facilitate other academic and non-academic routes.

The units studied for this course are:

- Unit 1: Practical Music Theory and Harmony
- Unit 2: Professional Practice in the Music Industry
- Unit 3: Ensemble Music Performance
- Unit 6: Solo Performance

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sound Engineering:

This [course](#) provides a more in-depth study of music production which deepens students' knowledge of this multi-faceted subject as well as giving them a real-world insight into the music industry. Students further develop their skills in recording, mixing, live sound and working within a production team. This qualification enables students to pursue higher education in music technology and have experience from industry professionals via workshops and partnerships offered by TDMS.

The units studied for this course are:

- Unit 1: Live Sound Reinforcement
- Unit 2: Studio Recording Techniques
- Unit 6: DAW Production
- Unit 13: Mixing and Mastering Techniques
- Unit 18: Working and Developing as a Production Team

The above course is being phased out with our current Year 13 students. We will continue to run a Level 3 Music Performance course.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

This is about opportunities for students to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how Students can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

Instrumental tuition:

Our department is partnered with the local music Severn Arts, who offer one to one or group tuition of the following instruments:

- **Strings:** Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
- **Woodwinds:** Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone
- **Brass:** Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tuba
- **Percussion:** Drums
- **Keyboard:** Piano
- **Guitar:** Acoustic, Electric, Bass
- **Voice:** Singing lessons for a variety of vocal styles

Pricing and policies:

Students can sign up for instrumental lessons by completing a consent and payment form [here](#). Prices vary depending on if these lessons are individual, groups or 20 minutes or 30 minutes.

- Group Lesson: £8.19

- Individual 20 minute: £16.38
- Individual 30 minute: £ 24.57
- Individual 60 minutes: £49.14

Support for parents and carers:

Instrument loan: The TDMS music department can provide instruments on loan to students who do not have their own, with priority for our most disadvantaged students. This ensures all students have the necessary tools to participate in music lessons. There is a consent form to sign for responsibility of the instrument.

Financial support: Families facing financial difficulties can apply for further assistance through Severn Arts [here](#). This is an application to reduce the price of the instrumental tuition lessons.

Extra-Curricular Clubs:

Our department offers a wide range of clubs and ensembles that students can join outside of regular lesson time, these cater to a variety of musical interests and skill levels. These ensembles provide opportunities for students to collaborate, perform, and further develop their musical talents. We believe this is a real strength of our department.

In 2025/26 our programme includes:

1. **Show choir:** Open to all students, the school choir performs in school events such as our year 5 feeder transition days, summer concerts, carol services and carol singing in local care homes.
2. **Lunch choir:** A lunchtime singing ensemble, for all that have a passion for performing.
3. **String ensemble:** For string players (violin, viola, cello, bass), focusing on string chamber music. This group performs at school concerts and local events.
4. **Rock band:** Open to students interested in rock and pop music, this band allows students to form their own groups, choose their set lists, and perform in school concerts.
5. **Brass ensemble:** A free opportunity to learn brass instruments and perform in a range of community concerts.

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:

The department offers multiple performances and concerts throughout the academic year. These opportunities are intended to build the confidence of students and involve them in the performing arts community, developing their social skills. Students have regular opportunities to perform in assemblies for all year groups, to inspire more students to join our extra-curricular programme and encourage our younger students to be involved in our concerts.

Our performances at TDMS are:

- TDMS Christmas Carol Service
- Performance showcase concerts throughout the year
- Year 4&5 Singing Day at TDMS
- Key Stage 5 Performance Evening
- Year 6 School Show (partnered with the Drama department)
- TDMS Summer Concert

Music Department Trips:

The music department schedule several trips throughout the school year. Students pay towards these trips via parent pay and we have limited spaces dependant on the trip. The events and venues proposed for visits this academic year are:

- Academy of Contemporary Music (ACM)
- Birmingham Conservatoire
- Birmingham Symphony Hall
- Voice in a million (subject to student interest)
- MAT concert (in collaboration with other schools)
- Carol Service at All Saint's Church Evesham (Free)
- Carol singing at Austen Court Care Home Evesham (Free)

Some financial support is available for parents/carers and can be applied for by contacting the TDMS finance department.

In the future

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

The TDMS music department would like to further develop our provision for the students, some of these changes include:

- Increasing the Year 6 lesson provision to an hour per week, rather than per fortnight.
- Creating links with local musical venues such as the RSC in Stratford to engage students in musical workshops and visit live performances.
- Improve our musical tuition provisions via discussions with our music hub, Severn Arts on arranging whole class tuition/workshops to develop our schemes of work in Key Stages 2 and 3.
- Further improvements on assessment within the department, working with partner schools on the development in consolidation assessments and feedback. This will further improve student progress and inform future planning decisions across the department.
- Further refine the curriculum offering in music, keeping the schemes of work up to date and relevant to the students whilst also bolstering their cultural capital.

Further information

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.