

St. Thomas More High School – Music Department

Development Plan: Summary

Overview

The mission of the music department here at St. Thomas More, is to provide a musical education that inspires, challenges, and nurtures a love for music in all students.

Our aims are to develop students' musical skills, knowledge, and understanding, instilling a lifelong appreciation for music in all its forms. The curriculum is designed to ensure that every student, regardless of their background or prior experience, has the opportunity to engage with a wide range of music, explore their creativity, and develop their performance skills on an instrument.

Through the Music curriculum, enrichment and co-curricular music events and peripatetic services we aim to foster and grow many key skills for our students; teamwork, confidence, creativity and much more.

Detail	Information	Related Links
Academic year that this summary covers	24-25	-
Date this summary was published	June 2024	-
Date this summary will be reviewed	Summer 2025	-
Name of the school music lead	Mr. L. Dixon	-
Name of local music hub	Music On Sea	https://www.musiconseaschool.co.uk/
Instrumental lesson provider	Morley's Music	https://morleymusicacademy.co.uk/
GCSE Examination Board	Eduqas	GCSE Music Eduqas
KS5 – BTEC Course	Pearson: BTEC - Level 3 Music Performance – Extended Certificate	BTEC Nationals Music Performance (2018) Pearson qualifications

Key Information – Lessons, Instrument hire and Ensembles

Instrumental Lessons

Outside of lesson time the school currently offers the following one to one instrumental lessons: Guitar, Bass, Drums, Piano, Violin, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone and is looking to offer Vocals (subject to demand.)

These lessons are operated and taught by visiting music teachers, from Morley's Music and Music On Sea. All lessons are optional and are subject to purchase from parent's / carers. There is school funding available for students who study GCSE music and students in receipt of free school meals / Pupil premium grant funding.

Instrumental lessons are scheduled to take place between 13:30 and 19:00. Lessons are timetabled depending on availability and the distance student's live from school. Lessons are 20 minutes long; however lesson length can be flexible, subject to prior agreement.

Musical Instrument Hire

Music on Sea offer an instrument hire scheme available for all Southend students. A range of musical instruments including Guitar, Violin, Clarinet, Saxophone and Cello can be hire for £30 per term. Reduced hire (£15 per term) is available for, students in receipt of free school meals or pupil premium grant, Southend Advantage Card Category C holders, students with an Education, Health Care (EHC) Plan and young carers. Free hire is available for Looked After Children.

Request hire by emailing parent/carer name, student's name, school attended and instrument of choice to: musiconsea@southend.gov.uk.

Visit www.musiconsea.co.uk/instrumenthire for further details including terms and conditions.

Ensembles

Ensembles at the school are mostly open to all and are tailored to the student's needs at the school. We have a mixture of groups, most of which are vertical across all year groups and others that are more senior by ability. Outside of ensembles, the music department is open to all as welcoming space for students to perform music, listen to music and make music, with a suite of music computers and breakout rehearsal spaces.

Our current ensembles include Choir, Folk Band, Rock band, Liturgical Band. In the future we are looking to start an orchestra / concert band.

Please see the table below, for the current Music Rehearsal / Enrichment Schedule:

Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Before School	Rehearsal Room Free Band – Open to all. (MU1)	Rehearsal Room Free Band – Open to all. (MU1)	Rehearsal Room Free Band – Open to all. (MU1)	Rehearsal Room Free Band – Open to all. (MU1)	Rehearsal Room Free Band – Open to all. (MU1)
Lunch	<u>Keyboard Club</u> – Open to all - <i>Week 1 only</i> (Music 1) <i>Practice room bookings</i>	<u>Music Technology</u> – Open to all (Music 1) <i>Practice room bookings</i>	<u>Liturgical Band</u> – By audition, speak to Mr. Dixon. (Music 1) <i>Practice room bookings</i>	<u>Choir</u> – Open to all (Music 1) <i>Practice room bookings</i>	<u>Folk Group</u> – KS3 Students (Music 1) <i>Practice room bookings</i>
After school		<u>GCSE Composition Clinic</u> – KS4 Students.	Morley's Music Academy	<u>Cover Club</u> – By audition, speak to Mr. Dixon. (Music 1) Morley's Music Academy	

Private Practice

- Students are always welcome to the music practice rooms to rehearse.
- Students can bring in their own instruments to practice with, instruments can be stored in the Music store cupboard during the day, at the owner's risk.
- Students can use the instrument's that the school has when available.
- Practice spaces are open to all students, please speak to a music teacher who will be happy to help you.

Curriculum - 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.

Detailed Curriculum map link: - [music.pdf \(st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk\)](https://st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/music.pdf)

Brief Curriculum Summary:

Unit	Key Skill / Knowledge
Year 7	
<i>Three Skills Challenge</i>	<i>Intro: Performing, Composing, Appraising. Pentatonic Scale.</i>
<i>Performance Skills</i>	<i>Pitch notation, Keyboard Technique. C Scale.</i>
<i>I've Got Rhythm</i>	<i>Rhythm notation, Performing in Time and Tempo.</i>
<i>Playing in an Ensemble</i>	<i>Chords, Performing and Arranging.</i>
Year 8	
<i>Instruments of the Orchestra</i>	<i>European Instruments, Notation and technique.</i>
<i>Next Door Neighbours</i>	<i>A minor Scale, Dissonance, Keyboard Technique.</i>
<i>Jazz and Blues</i>	<i>Improvisation, Blues Scales, 12 Bar.</i>
<i>Film Music</i>	<i>Performing technique and Composing for a brief.</i>
<u>Eduqas GCSE</u>	
<i>AOS 1: Forms and Devices</i>	<i>Musical structures and composing techniques. Set work: Badinerie</i>
<i>AOS 2: Music For Ensemble</i>	<i>How music is composed for groups, such as musical theatre and chamber music.</i>
<i>AOS 3: Film Music</i>	<i>Using music to enhance emotion, story and atmosphere in film.</i>
<i>AOS 4: Popular Music</i>	<i>Popular music styles such as rock, pop, soul and reggae, their context and composition. Set work: Africa.</i>
<u>BTEC Level 3 Music Performance</u>	
<i>Practical Music Theory and Harmony</i>	<i>Music theory and harmony, including notation, scales, chords, and their practical application</i>
<i>Professional Practice in the music Industry</i>	<i>Skills for the music industry, including business practices and industry standards.</i>
<i>Solo Performance</i>	<i>individual performance skills, focusing on preparation, technique, and delivering solo music performances.</i>
<i>Ensemble Music Performance</i>	<i>skills needed for performing music as part of a group, including rehearsal techniques and group dynamics.</i>

Curriculum Allocation:

Year 7 – 36 hours per year, Year 8 – 36 hours per year.

Year 9 – 3 hours a fortnight, Year 10 – 4 hours a fortnight.

Year 11 - 5 hours a fortnight, Year 12 and 13 – 8 hours a fortnight.

Curriculum Objectives:

- Enhance musical literacy and notation skills.
- Develop skill in playing an instrument.
- Develop skill and enjoyment in singing.
- Develop proficiency in music technology and composition.
- Maintain and improve strong support for SEND, PP and disadvantaged students.
- Strengthen links between music education and career opportunities, within the curriculum.

Current Strengths:

Emphasise and use of notation and musical literacy.

Integration of repertoire choices, skills, and sequencing ideas from the Model Music Curriculum.

Curriculum is informed by and covers the National Curriculum.

Clear development of progression on the keyboard through well-sequenced units.

Availability of choice and challenge, through bespoke tasks in student booklets.

Successful delivery and flight path through the **Eduqas GCSE** music course.

Progress of SEN and PP students within the curriculum, through adaptive teaching; modelling, choice, scaffolding and personalised support.

Careers links through workshops and visiting professionals.

Plans for the future:

More singing across all year groups, in timetabled lessons.

Continued improvements to sequencing of units, to maximising curriculum time.

Further development of composition and expressive skills in all year groups.

Further integration of music technology, using new music computer suite.

Improved in class links to careers in the curriculum, embedded into more lessons.

Part B – Co-Curricular music and experiences.

This section 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. Also included is information about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

Current offer:

Trips, workshops, and Performances:

External performances at the Palace Theatre

Large Open Mic performances in school hall.

Low stakes Live lounge performances in the music room.

Students have an opportunity to perform weekly at mass, as part of the school's collective worship.

Larger whole school performance opportunities for whole school masses, school celebration events and holy days of obligation.

Choir competition with other ACT Trust schools.

Advent Service, with hymns and solo performances.

Visiting professional delivering music making and professional skills sessions over multiple weeks to students in multiple key stages.

LPO Brightsparks Orchestra trip for GCSE students, featuring a workshop and live orchestra performance.

Live theatre visits to performances at Cliffs Pavilion.

Singing

All students take part in various singing assemblies throughout the year, alongside singing opportunities from their timetabled music lessons.

Singing events and practice are linked to the collective worship of the school, with students learning to sing various hymns, in line with holy days of the year.

Students are invited to sing with the choir at mass every Thursday.

Ensembles and Rehearsals:

The music room remains open for student use, fostering a vibrant music-making environment. Music clubs and rehearsal rooms are well attended and always available for private or ensemble practice.

Please refer to the previous ensemble table for more details.

Peripatetic lessons:

New instruments added to available repertoire, with Violin, Flute, Clarinet and Saxophone. Lessons are spread out over multiple days to meet high and growing demand.

Lessons taking place within lunch times and period 5 to accommodate students who live away from Southend.

Dual service offer, from local music hub Music on Sea and private provider, Morley's Music.

Plans for the future:

Peripatetic Lessons and links with MusicOnSea:

Continue to widen offer, introducing Brass and Vocal teaching.

Strengthening Links with Music on Sea, following its merger with Essex music services:

Enhance collaboration with the designated Arts Council Music Hub.

Utilize increased funding for peripatetic lessons, instruments, and workshops, in line with the National Plan for Music Education and changes to the local music hub.

Improved signposting and sharing of borough wide ensembles offered by hub.

Concert Band / Wind Band

Start and develop concert band / wind band to reflect students that are learning these instruments via peripatetic lessons.

Trips:

Continue to have at least one professional concert or musical trip per year group annually to enrich students' exposure to live performances.

More frequent visits to musicals and live performances for all year groups. An increase in travel to shows in London and surrounding areas, for students to see professional musicians.

Performances:

Increase number of public performances, with consistently scheduled vertical concerts, that are not necessarily liturgical.

Aim to investigate further performance venues.