

Music development plan summary: Dixons City Academy – Bradford

This document is designed to give a summary of the high-quality music provision at this academy in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, considering the key features in the national plan for music education:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for Key Stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the academy music lead	Dawn Lowther
Name of academy leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Ramender Crompton
Name of local music hub	Bradford Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Dixons Academies Trust - Director of Music, Tamsin Rafnsson

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.

- Students in Year 7 have 1 timetabled curriculum music lesson per week
- Students in Year 8 have 1 timetabled curriculum music lesson every other week, on a rotation with drama
- Students in Year 9, 10 and 11 have the option to study music at GCSE level (Edexcel specification)
- More details on the intentions of our curriculum and the skills and the curriculum overview can be found here: <https://www.dixonsca.com/about/curriculum>
- The curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum and is built on the four pillars of musical learning; understanding, skills, experiences and knowledge.
- Aligning with our trust’s focus on the joy of learning we focus on high quality teaching and excellent culture in lessons, opportunities for success and difficulty, underpinned by clear routines, behaviour and relationships. There are opportunities for students to celebrate, be recognised and make meaning of their experiences in music; for example, every lesson we award appreciation points to up to 5 students.



- Students explore performing, listening & appraising and composing during their music lessons and develop skills individually and as a team in group work.
- The curriculum incrementally builds so that each time a student comes back round to a skill they should be developing and improving their skills in that specific area e.g. keyboard performance work.
- The curriculum is both accessible and challenging for all, so that every student is capable of achieving their personal best under the expert guidance of a specialist teacher, supported by information from our Individual Needs department which helps us to adapt our teaching to meet the needs of every child.
- At Key Stage 3 students will sing and play a wide variety of instruments including keyboard, handheld percussion, tuned percussion (glockenspiels) and ukuleles. In addition, they will get the chance to experience creating using computer software in our music technology room.
- At Key Stage 4 students work towards the Edexcel GCSE music specification and study a variety of set works in preparation for the listening and appraising paper, prepare solo / ensemble performances on their chosen instrument and create compositions using specialist music software in a bespoke music technology suite. Lessons are practical, but also cover all the knowledge and skills need to understand the theory of music (reading scores and understanding musical symbols and key terminology) and also identifying features of music through focused listening tasks.
- All teaching is highly responsive and adapted to the wide range of needs and abilities of students, including those who have entered the academy on a performing arts place.
- All lessons consider equity, diversity and inclusion; this includes choice of repertoire to cover a variety of genres, cultures and music from around the world, and watching to / listening to performances which aim to represent everyone from our diverse community (this is also enhanced by the additional free provision for selected students with All Star, Bradford, please see below for more details).
- All students opting for music are encouraged and supported to take peripatetic lessons on their choice of instrument, and through this have the additional option of entering for external graded exams.

Part B: Extra-curriculum 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.

- In addition to the central curriculum lessons outlined above all students at the school have access to a wide range of peripatetic instrumental / vocal lessons which are taught on a 1:1 or paired basis for 20, 30 or 40 minutes dependent upon grade and experience.
- Students are guaranteed a minimum of 30 lessons across the year, with the possibility of having up to 33.
- We also have a stock of instruments that students can loan for free dependent upon availability as follows; violin, flute, clarinet, saxophone (including soprano, tenor and baritone), Eb horn, trumpet, trombone, glockenspiel, electric guitar, bass guitar (plus small practise amps).
- These lessons are charged as follows:

Student standard	Time allocated per week	Parental contribution per term
Beginner to Grade 3	Individual 20 minutes	£73.00
	paired 20 minutes	£45.00
Grade 4 & 5 or GCSE Music student	Individual 30 minutes	£86.00
	Paired 30 minutes	£50.00
Grade 6	Individual 40 minutes	£100.00



Grade 7 or 8	Individual 50 minutes	£110.00
Theory students	30 minute (group lesson)	£30.00

- For pupil premium and free school meal students where possible we try to support with free or subsidised lessons, and we can also agree weekly or monthly payment plans via our parentpay system where this is needed.
- For students who have entered the academy on a Performing Arts place we offer a free paired lesson and a free instrument to practise on (subject to suitability and availability).
- Where no suitable pairing is available we offer 10 minute individual lessons per week or a 20 minute individual lesson every other week, depending upon how this aligns with the peripatetic teacher's timetable allocation.
- All students studying music at GCSE level in Yrs 9-11 will be supported to access lessons on their chosen instrument / voice.
- The range of lessons offered are as follows; violin, cello, electric and acoustic guitar, bass guitar, piano, keyboard, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet (and other brass), singing, drum kit and percussion.
- We also offer a variety of free extra-curricular music clubs as follows:

Day	Morning (8.15-8.45)	Lunchtime (12.50-1.20 or 1.20-1.50)	After school
Monday	Choir – A25		String Group – A26
Tuesday	Guitar Group – Practise Room 5		Concert Band - Theatre
Wednesday		Wind Group – A25	Soul Band - Theatre Music Theory Class – A25
Thursday	Samba Band – Drama Studio		
Friday		RnB groups for KS3 and KS4 – Practise Room 6 / A25	Musical Theatre Group – A25 (or Drama Studio / Theatre)

- Anyone wishing to start a club should speak to their music teacher in the first instance as some, such as choir, have a waiting list dependent upon the space available in the current rehearsal room.
- Extra-curricular clubs are an excellent way for students to develop and progress on their chosen instrument, and also provide valuable social experiences as students from all year groups mix together and enjoy their love of music making together.
- In addition we liaise with [Bradford Music Hub](#) to ensure students on their Furthering Talent / Connect Programmes ([Young Sounds Connect](#)) have access to lessons on the academy premises where possible, and constantly look at eligibility for those who may benefit from this programme.
- All students having peripatetic lessons have opportunities to enter for a wide range of well recognised external examinations such as ABRSM, Trinity and Rockschoool grade exams both theory and practical.
- In recent years we have entered students for live exams and video recorded exams, so students can discuss with their teacher which is best suited to their needs.
- Students wishing to practise their instruments outside of the academy day i.e. before or after school can make use of the 6 practise rooms we have available and should speak to the Head of Music to agree this beforehand.
- In addition to the above we liaise with Bradford Music Hub to ensure students on their Furthering Talent / Connect Programmes have access to free lessons on the academy premises where possible, and constantly look at eligibility for those who may benefit from this programme.
- Our students also benefit from additional free provision from All Star, Bradford, who work with nominated students on a weekly basis on performing, music technology (creating and mixing tracks) and DJ-ing skills; the students can be nominated by any member of staff across the academy who thinks that engagement in this programme will enrich their experience at school, develop new skills and enhance their love of music.



- We aim to increase the joy students gain from their music making through removing as many barriers as possible so that they can participate and explore their love of music both inside and outside of the academy.

Part C: Musical Events and Opportunities

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.

In 2024-25 the rehearsal schedule above will run every week and most groups will get the opportunity to perform in at least one of the planned musical events this year:

- **Academy Open Evening** – Thurs 19 September. Students who wish to volunteer can perform or support with showing Year 6 around our music facilities and help them to play keyboard / ukulele or create a drum beat in our music technology room on music software.
- **Dixons Cup** – the music department encourages students to enter solo performance work to be considered for commendation and Bronze, Silver and Gold awards as part of the Trust Wide Dixons Cup competition. These opportunities are offered at various points in the year – this year we hope to offer this during Cycle 2. Students participating in external extra-curricular events can also be eligible to collect participation points for their academy towards the final total at the end of the year.
- **Christmas Concert** – Wed 4 Dec (with some additional large scale rehearsals to take place in the lead up to the event on the afternoon of Tues 26 Nov, and all day on Tues 3 Dec) in the Lord Kalms Theatre. This will involve most of the ensembles plus a mixture of solo and duet performances and will involve students from Year 7-11. Students wishing to participate should see the Head of Music.
- **GCSE Year 11 Ensemble Performance Exams** (recordings in theatre) w/c 13 January.
- **GCSE Year 11 Composition Day off timetable** – w/c 20 January.
- **Music Summer Celebration** - Friday 2 May 6.30pm This will involve most of the ensembles plus a mixture of solo and duet performances and will involve students from Year 7-11. Students wishing to participate should see the Head of Music.
- **W/c 7 July Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** – musical theatre show – collaboration between the music & drama departments. This will involve students from Year 7-11 as part of the cast or band. Open auditions on Friday 20 Sept.
- Tuesday 1 July – extended concert band after school till 5.30 to rehearse Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. This will involve students from Year 7-11 who are concert band.
- Friday 4 July – half day tech rehearsal for Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. This will involve students from Year 7-11 who are part of the cast or band.
- Monday 7 July dress rehearsal day off timetable for Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (8.40-5.30) with preview performance for Dixons Primary Academies. This will involve students from Year 7-11 who are part of the cast or band.
- **Collaborative Singing Concert** – TBC – we hope to offer the opportunity for singers Year 7 -11 to be part of a trust-wide singing performance which will take place at St George's Hall in Bradford during the Summer Term.
- **Bradford Schools Prom** – TBC – each year we usually apply for one of our ensembles to take part in the Bradford Schools Prom which takes place in March. Recent performances have seen our Saxophone Group and our Guitar Group perform to great acclaim!
- Tickets for all concerts and shows are available for any students and families at Dixons City Academy and from the wider community via Ticketsource; advertisements and links for tickets will appear on the academy website in the weeks prior to each event so that anyone who wishes to can come and be part of the audience.
- Tickets are usually priced at around £5.50 full price and £2.80 concession.
- In addition to the above planned events we are always liaising with Bradford Music Hub and other local arts organisations to provide any other enrichment opportunities or trips for our students; in particular we hope that we will be able to get involved in some exciting events during 2025 when Bradford is the City of Culture.

In the future

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

We are constantly trying to ensure we offer the best musical opportunities to our students. Please see below some of the things we are planning for this year and beyond to maintain and build on our current provision:



Curriculum

- Based on student feedback we have tried to ensure all students have access to an individual keyboard in lessons this year by purchasing some smaller keyboards that students can utilise at their desks – we are trialling the use of these in our Year 8 Blues project, and also within GCSE lessons.
- We are looking for ways to increase the provision of computer access within our music technology suite to allow every student to have an individual computer when we work on music software.

Outside the classroom

- We are investigating the possibility of expanding our extra curricular opportunities to include some Bhangra skills.
- We are exploring the provision of the Modulo programme to offer additional ways for students to engage in music making outside the classroom and gain experience of working in large ensembles outside of our academy.
<https://www.orchestrasforall.org/modulo-programme>
- We continue to review the opportunities of Music For Youth, whom we have engaged with in the past, to give our ensembles the chance to perform in exciting external venues <https://www.mfy.org.uk/>
- This year we have introduced a new mixed Wind Ensemble which is rehearsing weekly at lunchtime on Wednesdays – watch out for them performing in our Concerts this year!

Further information (optional)

Please find below some useful links which you may find helpful when considering your child's musical experiences inside and outside the academy:

Bradford Music Hub - [Bradford Music Hub](#)

Bradford Music Hub's Connect Programme Partner - [Young Sounds Connect](#)

Edexcel GCSE Music page - [GCSE Music](#)

The National Plan for Music Education – [NPME](#)

The Model Music Curriculum - [MMC](#)

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.

