

Music development plan summary: Alec Reed Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	26 th March 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	19 th August 2025
Name of the school music lead	Dan Francis
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Ross Collins
Name of local music hub	Ealing Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	London College of Music

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

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.

Overview:

Music is part of the school curriculum for one hour per week in Years 7 and 8 and is designed to support all students to make and think about music so they can become musicians. The curriculum is designed to enable progress within Ofsted's Technical, Constructive and Expressive pillars so that all students can enjoy progression through Key Stage Three, Four and Five, becoming either amateur or professional musicians as they move beyond the school.

Years 7 and 8:

The curriculum introduces students to the concepts that make music sound the way it does across different cultures and throughout history, developing their ability to produce and talk about music in an increasingly sophisticated way. This is done through a practical curriculum which develops their ability to manipulate DAWs, keyboards, guitar,

drums and their voices to create music written by others and by them. New concepts and consolidation of knowledge is done through 'Five a Day' starters and Home Learning and progress is tracked through the completion of skills trackers throughout the year.

Years 9 – 11:

Students opt to strengthen their identity as musicians in Years 9 – 11 where we deliver the Eduqas GCSE Music specification. The course is built around a practical exploration of how music is formed within the **four areas of study** through group performing and analysis activities, integrated listening tasks, and individual compositional techniques exercises using DAWs. In Years 9 and 10, individuals identify and focus on their specialist instrument(s), developing their technical skills sufficiently to be able to apply the constructive components of music in order to produce increasingly expressive content as a performer and as a composer/producer. In Year 11, students focus on combining their substantive, disciplinary and tacit knowledge to produce two performances, two compositions and to complete the appraising unit. In Years 9 – 11, each cohort is allocated 5 hours per fortnight.

Learning is further supported through the allocation of approximately 20 hours' per week of instrumental tuition for learners enrolled on courses in Years 9 – 11. This is paid for by the school and, where appropriate, students are entered for graded music exams.

In Years 12 – 13, courses are designed to cater for students' aspirations towards specialist careers in the industry and skills that enhance their long-term employability and wellbeing. The school offers the Level Three BTEC National Extended Certificate, currently focussing on Music Performance in Year Twelve and Music Production in Year Thirteen. Each cohort receives 10 lessons per fortnight.

Curriculum Delivery Partnerships:

The school is currently a member of Ealing Music Service and the school makes use of a drum tutor from EMS to support the delivery of instrumental tuition in Years 9 – 11. The school is also the Lead School for Music Technology for the Music Hub.

The school is also working partnership with London College of Music through an independent tutor providing mentoring for students studying the National Extended Certificate in Music Production in Year Thirteen.

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.

The school serves a diverse community and supports students from within a socio-economically deprived demographic.

Access:

The Music Department comprises two specialist teaching rooms:

- 18-station Macsuite running Logic ProX
- Classroom comprising electronic keyboards
- Three practice rooms
- Recording Studio and 10-station Mac Technology Teaching space

Each space contains a minimum of one drum kit, a piano/synth, electric and bass guitar.

The department is also equipped with specialist microphones, amplifiers, a class set of Acoustic Guitars, Djembe, Ukulele, Untuned percussion; and a selection of orchestral instruments.

The Music Department is open before school, during each break, lunchtime and after school to enable students to explore their emerging musical identities. Students access the facilities by booking rehearsal spaces and respecting industry-practice protocols regarding management and use of equipment.

Students in Years 12 and 13 access a Free Room timetable to access all equipment to enhance the guided learning hours they receive as part of their taught courses.

Formal Activities:

This open access policy is enhanced by:

- Band Mentoring sessions at lunchtime for each Year Group across Monday – Friday
- Subject Mentoring sessions on Mondays and Fridays for students in Years 10 – 11
- Voxbox – an open access choir for students on a Wednesday afternoon

These activities are free of charge.

Instrumental Tuition:

Instrumental tuition is currently offered on Guitar, Drums and Piano in pairs and for individual students in 20 and 30-minute sessions. A 100% subsidy is available for students in receipt of PP and FSM; and for LAC. A 50% subsidy is available for students in other circumstances at the discretion of the school. A set figure is set aside per year to support students in receipt of Pupil Premium.

The drum tutor is provided by Ealing Music Service.

Music Production teaching in Year 13 is enhanced by an independent tutor sourced from the London College of Music.

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 school hosts an annual Autumn concert and a Summer Showcase where students from across the school present work produced in lessons, co-curricular activities and through their own independent student.

Each cohort enrolled on the National Extended Certificate present two events per year which are promoted to younger students and an invited audience as part of their course.

Charges applied to concerts are designed to cover any specific capital costs related to the event concerned.

Live Music also features in End of Term Celebration Assemblies co-ordinated by Heads of Year and in various House Events throughout the Year.

Students engage with EMS events, such as the Ealing Battle of the Bands (Year 9) and the Ealing Royal Albert Hall Celebration (Voxbox) Set out what musical experiences are planned for the academic year, including regular events such as singing in assembly, musical performances, concerts and shows at the school, and trips to concerts outside of the school.

Students in Years 7 – 13 are given the opportunity to attend visits to concerts at venues in central London, specifically the Barbican at Christmas and Wicked in the Summer Term.

In the future

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

Curriculum Music:

Curriculum in Years 7 and 8 will continue to evolve to increase the focus on skills development across the three Ofsted Curriculum pillars.

Year 9 will continue to evolve to provide ever stronger progression into Year 10.

Year 12 and 13 will continue to respond to the needs of the wider community so will maintain a strong focus on preparation, not just for the music industry, but the Creative Industries as a whole through Media, Sound and Theatre Production.

Co-curricular and Instrumental Provision:

Increasing access to high quality group music-making is a priority so making use of PP funding to support small group learning in Year 7 on woodwind, brass and strings as an

extension of the curriculum is in the planning stages. This provision, alongside the curriculum, will develop a percentage of instrumentalists who will progress into a school-based 'orchestra.' This orchestra will also be open to students from the primary school.

After school sessions on two afternoons per week will support instrumental ensembles for students in Years 7 and 8 and in Years 9 – 11.

The Summer Showcase this year will be used to launch a School Production to be presented in 2025-6, which will develop the skills of students performing on-stage, in the pit, backstage and front of house.

As a lead school for Music Technology, our aim is to work in partnership with EMS to provide 'Composing and Live Sequencing with DAWs' sessions for students within the school community and as an out-of-hours provision for students across the wider community. The partnership will also develop students' audio engineering skills, leading to a student-led studio for local junior artists to record their music in a professional environment.

The school is extending its instrumental provision to include a wider range of instruments and is in the process of sourcing new portfolio professionals to work within the school, subject to demand.

Wider Partnerships:

Our partnership with the London College of Music will evolve to provide access to their state-of-the-art facilities for students in Years 10 – 13, enabling them to enhance their music production skills and a clear route to a local specialist provider on leaving school.

Further partnerships are being explored with BIMM, Confetti, ICMP and LCCM to provide opportunities for students on Level 3 courses to engage with experts and equipment relevant to their studies alongside explicit routes into HEI.

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

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.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.