

Music development plan summary: Kenton School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	19 th September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 st September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Jonathan Thornton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Andrew Mair
Name of local music hub	North Tyneside Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music Partnership North

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.

In Key Stage 3 students have two music lessons a fortnight. The learning journey for music students is [available here](#).

Key Stage 3

Kenton School offers a holistic and inclusive music curriculum designed to reflect the Model Music Curriculum and National Curriculum. We offer students a well-rounded experience of music across all the key disciplines of Singing, Listening, Composing, Instrumental Performance and Production.

- **Singing** – The use of the voice is at the centre of all topics and is encouraged from year 7 and throughout key stage 3.

- **Listening** – Students access listening based tasks and projects through key stage 3 with compositions chosen with the Model Music Curriculum in mind and the wider picture of GCSE Music in years 10 and 11. Students study an ever-growing repertoire of different genres, different time periods and different cultures.
- **Composing** – Schemes of learning throughout key stage 3 allow students to compose through creative writing, collaborative & individual projects and through the instruments & vocal performance.
- **Performance** – Learning to play an instrument is at the centre of the key stage 3 experience. All students will learn to play keyboard, guitar and ukulele with wider opportunities to learn Drum Kit, Strings, Woodwind, Brass & Percussion.
- **Production** – All students are taught how to use music production software (BandLab, Cubase) to produce music. The use of DAWs is studied and students are taught how to capture recordings using microphones and edit audio to produce their own creative productions.

Maximising the student's access of the arts is at the centre of everything we do in the Music department. A practical focus throughout the curriculum ensures that our students learn by engaging in 'hands-on' activities that not only enhance their musical skills but also develop their critical thinking, creative and collaborative skills.

Across key stage 3, students learn to play a range of instruments including keyboard, guitar, ukulele, and drums within both individual and ensemble settings to improve and develop their musicianship. During year 7, students are taught to play a variety of instruments before selecting a 'specialist' instrument in year 8.

Throughout year 8 and 9, students continue holistic development on their chosen instrument whilst they continue to develop their wider aural, theory and appraisal skills. In years 8 and 9, students experience more collaborative based, full class and larger group projects involving ensemble performances.

Students in Key Stage 3 access schemes of learning allowing students to deepen their understanding of genres from across the world and from different time periods. All schemes of learning offer students practical based activities on instruments and digital audio workstations. The chosen schemes of learning offer every member of the Kenton community a chance to enjoy music whilst widening their knowledge of the cultural & social impact of music in local and international community.

Our partnerships with Addanote Ltd, North Tyneside Music Education Hub and Music Partnership North support is in application of musical instruments and teaching resources used through years 7, 8 and 9.

Key stage 4 (Qualifications & Awards)

Students at Kenton School currently deliver two different level 2 awards. Our cohort for 2023-2024 access the Level 2 BTEC Music Practice Tech Award in Year 11 with our cohort for 2024-2025 and beyond now accessing the EDUQAS GCSE Music course. Students can also access BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Music Performance in our Sixth Form.

Kenton School students who play an instrument can be entered for graded exams from 'debut' to Grade 8 through a range of exam bodies. The school will fund or part-fund the cost of entry for students whenever possible. Exam boards for instrumental and theory exams include:

- ABRSM
- RSL
- Trinity College London

Lesson Allocations:

KS3: 1 hour per week

Year 10 GCSE Music have 5 hours per fortnight

Year 11 GCSE Music have 5 hours per fortnight

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.

Instrument Lessons

All students in Kenton have access instrument lessons free of charge to ensure that pupil premium acts as no barrier in students accessing Music. These lessons are 25–30-minute lessons once a week delivered by a visiting peripatetic instrument teacher.

Instruments on offer include:

- **Strings** – Violin & Cello
- **Brass** – Trumpet, Trombone, Tenor Horn
- **Woodwind** – Clarinet, Saxophone & Flute
- **Drum Kit**
- **Vocals**
- **Piano**
- **Guitar**

Currently, uptake in peripatetic lessons is almost 6% of the whole school.

Extra-curricular opportunities (Ensembles & Showcases)

All students can access a wider extra curriculum for Music & Performing Arts including year group specific singing ensembles, a whole school singing ensemble, Rock Band Club, Songwriting class & school productions. Typically, Kenton School offers a winter programme of a Winter Music Concert, Winter Play and carol singing opportunities in care homes and out in the public. We offer an Easter Showcase for both music and performing arts and a Summer Programme of a large Summer Music Concert & large school musical.

We have delivered highly successful shows in previous years including *Matilda The Musical*, *Shrek The Musical*, *Back to the 80s*, *Oliver!*, *Mary Poppins* & *Cinderella*. Students of Kenton School are at the core of these productions with students assuming the roles of performers, backstage crew, set designers, costume design, lighting & sound, dance choreography & social media promotion.

Students have access to our music PC lab and purpose-built practice rooms at breaktime, lunch, before and after school to practise their instruments, collaborate and socialise with like-minded musicians.

We offer a range of opportunities for students to engage in wider personal development outside of school in workshops and on trips. We offer an annual music and performing arts trip to London to watch a professional show on the West End. We work with outside institutes such as the Glass House, the O2 Academy and local music studios to offer our students opportunities expose to the music industry. We also are resuming our work with 'This is Creative Enterprise' to develop our Key Stage 4 student's musician in an extensive and focused workshop programme alongside their curriculum experience and peripatetic lessons.

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.

Kenton School offers students several opportunities to perform within school and in the wider community. As mentioned, we offer a comprehensive Winter, Easter & Summer Programme of concerts, showcases and Musicals that are open to all year groups at Kenton School. Our inclusive vision ensures that all students who audition for our school productions and Musicals feature in the showcase in a variety of different roles including performers, backstage crew, set designers, costume design, lighting & sound, dance choreography & social media promotion.

For music concerts, students who sign up for free peripatetic instrument lessons do so with the understanding that they are to contribute in at least one of our music showcases each year. These showcases allow friends, family and the wider public to experience the hard work and talents of our students in our purpose-built performance space, North Hall.

Our music students are also offered additional performance activities through the school year including Year 9 Graduation, care home performances, Lunchtime concerts and carol singing in the wider community.

In the future

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

The Plan for the future:

Also consider including:

- Continue to refine the Key Stage 3 curriculum to maximise preparation for Key Stage 4 and 5.
- To increase uptake at Key Stage 5.
- Continue to embed singing and participation in vocal-based activities particularly in years 8 and 9.
- To introduce a 'School Orchestra'. An exclusive ensemble for our instrumental students across all instrument families.
- To continue to increase the numbers of students access instrument lessons.
- Widen opportunities outside of school for students to experience live music performance.

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.

Local Music Hub link: <https://ntmeh.org.uk/>