

Music development plan summary: Sir Christopher Hatton Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	N Billett
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	T Abedin
Name of local music hub	Northamptonshire and Rutland Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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 those pupils can achieve.

Sir Christopher Hatton Academy provides a broad and varied Music Curriculum across Key Stage 3, 4 and 5. A detailed overview of the music curriculum for each year group can be found on the Academy website here: [Music - Sir Christopher Hatton Academy](#)

Key Stage 3

Music at Key Stage 3 is on a rotation within the Performing Arts Faculty, with the students receiving 20 hours of tuition within Years 7 and 8 and a further 10 hours of tuition in Year 9. The topics covered within these rotation units are: Keyboard skills, Ukulele basics, Blues, Music for Image, Popular Music, Intro to Glockenspiels, Music Theory.

Assessment

Assessment at Key Stage 3 is through performance, composition and listening tasks, both in the classroom.

Key Stage 4

Music at Key Stage 4 is Eduqas GCSE Music (9-1). Lessons are currently delivered across two lessons per week, starting in Year 9.

The Eduqas GCSE Music qualification requires students to develop their knowledge of four musical Areas of Study, focusing on two set works in depth, to enable them to apply their knowledge and musicianship to a variety of musical pieces and settings. The course also requires students to perform as an ensemble and as a soloist, and to compose two compositions. The appraising examination takes place in the summer of Year 11.

Key Stage 5

At Key Stage 5 we currently deliver the Eduqas A Level in Music, with a focus on the Performance route. This course is delivered across five lessons per week between two experienced music teachers, each teaching within their areas of strength.

The course requires students to perform (35%), compose two pieces of music (25%), and complete a 2-hour 15-minute examination in the summer of Year 13 (40%).

Inclusion and SEND

Within the music department we follow the Hatton Academies Trust SEND policy for inclusion, which can be found on the Trust website [here](#). Within curriculum lessons, all students have access to resources and activities that can be tailored to their individual needs.

We also follow the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021) to ensure that high that we set high expectations for every pupil, whatever their prior attainment.

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.

Instrumental and Vocal Tuition

As part of the co-curricular music opportunities within the Academy we work closely with the Northamptonshire and Rutland Music Education Hub, specifically with Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust, to deliver quality, inclusive and enjoyable music experiences for all students.

Our current instrumental and vocal tuition opportunities include;

Upper Strings – Violin and Viola

Lower Strings – Cello and Double Bass

Woodwind – Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Saxophone

Brass – Trumpet/Cornet, French Horn, Tenor Horn, Euphonium/Baritone, Trombone, Tuba

Piano and Keyboard

Voice/ Singing

Guitar – Including electric, classical, acoustic, ukulele and bass (when requested)

Instrumental lessons are provided as a **20-minute individual or paired lesson**, but also as **10-minute individual or paired lessons** for those just beginning their musical journey as an instrumentalist. Exams are encouraged and many students participate in ABRSM, Trinity and NMPAT performance examinations.

Tuition Fees

The current tuition fees for instrumental lessons are shown below;

20-minute Individual Tuition (NMPAT) - £192.50 per term (11 weeks)

10-minute Individual Tuition (NMPAT) - £96.25 per term (11 weeks)

20-minute Shared Tuition (NMPAT) - £96.25 per term (11 weeks)

15-minute Individual Tuition (NMPAT) - £68.75 per term (11 weeks)

There is a 30% reduction in tuition fees if students are GCSE and A-Level Music Students.

Alongside our instrumental tuition provision, a range of ensembles are available across the academy;

	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	String Group (PA2)	

	Ukulele Group (PA3)	
Tuesday		Hatton Singers
Wednesday	Woodwind Group (PA2) Keyboard Club (PA3)	
Thursday	Brass Group (PA3)	
Friday		

All of the ensembles and sessions listed above are open to students in Y7 – 13, free of charge.

Access and Financial Support

We currently have 33 students taking instrumental and vocal lessons each week, financial support is available towards the cost of tuition for PP and (P)LAC students, and also for families where financial situation is difficult. This is organised on a case-by-case basis.

Partnership with Wellingborough Music and Arts Centre

As part of our ongoing partnership with the **Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust**, the Music Department, along with other rooms across the Academy, is used to host the **Wellingborough Music and Arts Centre (WMAC)** on a Saturday morning. This centre sees nearly 300 adults and students from the local area engaged in a large variety of ensemble, music, drama and dance activities.

Facilities

We have access to one music classroom, fitted with PCs and MIDI Keyboards. We have use of a practice room, a seminar room and a live/band room. We also have the Main Hall and Auditorium as performance spaces.

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 experiences across the Academy are broad and open to all students.

Student Participation and Ensembles

Alongside our curriculum experiences students in Y7 to 13 taking instrumental lessons, either through the academy or privately, are invited to join the co-curricular ensemble that rehearse weekly and perform as part of the Academy's calendared performances.

Musical Performances and Events

These concerts include, but are not limited to;

- Hatton Academies Trust Christmas Performance
- Spring Lunchtime Concert
- Summer Arts Festival
- Rotary Music Festival
- National Festival of Music for Youth Regional events
- Linked performances with Wellingborough Music and Arts Centre, through our regional Music Hub.
- Visits to primary schools to perform to younger students

Partnership Opportunities

Alongside our performance opportunities, students are invited to join the Wellingborough Music and Arts Centre, and have the opportunity to attend these performance events.

In the future

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

Curriculum Development

We are currently delivering 20 lessons of music over the academic year for the first two years of Key Stage 3, with a further 10 lessons in Year 9.

Key Stage 3 lessons are now more focused on practical music making and theory to ensure a secure transition into Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. Theory starters are taught each lesson, and a focus on both performance and composition will fill the main part of each Key Stage 3 lesson.

Students beginning GCSE music in year 9 will cover more foundational knowledge and practice skills including composition techniques, performance skills (solo and ensemble), and studying further theory topics in depth.

Students will also need to have peripatetic instrumental lessons to access the GCSE course.

Musical Experiences

We currently have at least one performance opportunity per term available to students, with additional lunchtime and evening recitals when viable.

Further information

Within our co-curricular provision, we work closely with the Northamptonshire and Rutland Music Hud, and particularly with the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT). Further information about [NMPAT can be found here.](#)

As part of this partnership, we have been recognised with being awarded [Music Mark.](#)