

# The Holmesdale School Music Development Plan Summary for 2024-2025

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 – 2025
Date this summary was published	17/11/24
Date this summary will be reviewed	21/07/25
Name of the school music lead	Nathanael Watson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Nathanael Watson
Name of local music hub	Kent Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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

The Holmesdale School is committed to providing a curriculum that is broad, balanced, challenging and fosters a love of learning. We match our curriculum to the abilities, interests and aspirations of our students, to give every child the opportunity to strive for personal excellence. Our curriculum aims to open doors for every pupil, and we therefore value the contribution that creative, practical and vocational learning brings to a child’s development alongside the traditional subjects. Our hope is that every child who leaves The Holmesdale School has the qualifications, skills, knowledge and character to access aspirational Post-16 opportunities and to lead a life that includes positive relationships, resilience and financial independence.

**Objectives of the curriculum area**

Our core purpose at KS3 is to deliver an engaging and challenging curriculum through outstanding teaching and learning. We aim to make our students ready for KS4 by the end of Year 9 and to make them confident and responsible members of the school and

wider community. The sequencing of the curriculum enables students to build on their knowledge and skills towards agreed end points.

This is to ensure that students master the high expectations that are set by the curriculum at KS4 should they want to continue in The Arts. Each lesson requires students to listen, perform and evaluate through embedding a wide range of musical experiences. They are encouraged to make independent decisions and be resilient in creativity and giving and accepting feedback. As a department we feel very strongly about developing students' love for music and creating an atmosphere where students can learn through performance, listening and research. Instrumental lessons and singing opportunities enhance both their performance and understanding of the varied aspects of music. There will be a real "buzz" in the air as you walk into a KS3 lesson and students will be given every opportunity to develop their resourcefulness, resilience, and reflectiveness.

**Sequence and Structure of the Music Department Curriculum**

Our KS3 curriculum provides pupils with enough breadth and depth to allow them to become successful musicians. All Key Stage 3 students will cover basic music notation, keyboard skills, rhythmic composition and reading, music elements and instrumental groupings as well as introductions to various musical genres from “classical” to pop. A performance-based assessment will take place at the end of each term to understand where the students are in terms of their confidence, communication, teamwork, knowledge of skills, appreciation and composing.

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 7	Building Blocks	Keyboard skills	Rhythm and Pulse	Form & Structure	<i>Instruments of the Orchestra</i>	<i>Folk Music</i>
Year 8	Hooks and Riffs	Reggae Music	Variations	Exploring Jazz and The Blues	<i>All about the Bass</i>	<i>Djembe Drumming</i>
Year 9	Dance Music	Sound-tracks	Video Game music	Minimalism	<i>Samba</i>	<i>Popular Music</i>

**Meeting the Needs of Students**

The music curriculum ensures that all students have equal access to the curriculum. Students will be exposed to varying music artists, some of which will stretch and challenge our DA or SEN students. Pupils will also have the opportunity to write and learn extended music notation to increase their knowledge and skills. The do now tasks are differentiated to help DA students recall information across KS3 and stretch and

challenge tasks for HA students. Furthermore, groupings in the music lessons are considered to assist HA and DA students depending on their strengths.

### **Music Hub and CPD**

We maintain a strong partnership with Kent Music, our local music hub. Through regular CPD sessions and workshops, we have the opportunity to collaborate with other schools in the area and share best practices.

## **Part B: Co-curricular music**

The Holmesdale School offers one-to-one instrumental tuition through Greyce Music, providing lessons for a wide range of instruments and vocal tuition. These 20-minute lessons are scheduled during the school day, with careful timetabling to minimize disruption to other subjects.

In addition to formal tuition, the school offers a variety of extracurricular music activities, including funded singing and ukulele clubs that run for an hour after school. This funding is provided by Kent Music. Students also have access to music classrooms and practice rooms during break, lunch times and after school, providing opportunities for independent practice and exploration

## **Part C: Musical experiences.**

At The Holmesdale School, we offer a diverse range of music performance opportunities for all students. Our Winter Showcase, held in late December, highlights the exceptional talent across all year groups. From solo vocalists to larger ensembles, and even collaboration with dance and poetry, this event provides a platform for students to shine.

Our second concert takes place on our unique outdoor wooden theatre towards the end of Term 3. Similar to our Christmas Showcase, this event offers students a platform to showcase their artistic talents. While the Christmas Showcase is a ticketed event for parents and students, the Term 3 concert is open to the entire school community. All funds raised from these concerts are reinvested into the music department fund, enabling us to improve our music facilities and create exciting new performance opportunities for our students.

Beyond our large-scale performances, we provide a variety of smaller-scale opportunities for students to showcase their talents. Our annual "Swalestock" event, a battle of

the bands competition, brings together students from different schools in our trust. Students also have the chance to perform at our opening evening and engage with the local community, including care homes, primary schools, and the local town's Christmas light-up event. These experiences help students develop their skills, confidence, and a sense of community.

Throughout the school year, we aim to enrich students' musical experiences with a range of trips to concerts and performances, both locally within Kent and occasionally with trips to prestigious London venues such as the Royal Albert Hall and Barbican Centre.

## In the future

Our primary goal for this year is to offer a dedicated Key Stage 4 music course that allows students to pursue their musical ambitions further. This course will provide a recognized music qualification, paving the way for further study at college or university.

To support this, we plan to increase access to private music tuition by offering a wider range of peripatetic teachers who are qualified to deliver high-quality lessons. We also aim to increase the number of students participating in performance opportunities and ultimately expand the range of concerts and performances available to our students.

By continually improving our musical culture and learning opportunities, we aim to ensure that all students at The Holmesdale School have the chance to thrive and succeed in their musical endeavours.

## Further information (optional)

For further information from Kent Music and their support for local schools, [click here](#).

For The Department for Education's published guide on music education for parents and young people, [click here](#).