

Music development plan summary: *Millthorpe School*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	1 st October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 st September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Alice Longbottom
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Katy Sladen
Name of local music hub	York Music Hub.
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

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.

At Millthorpe students have curriculum lessons once a fortnight in years 7 and 9, and once a week in year 8. We offer GCSE music at Key Stage 4, for which students have 5 lessons a fortnight. The school curriculum is informed by the model curriculum and is followed as much as is possible within the restrictions of fortnightly lessons.

Key Stage 3:

In music we aim to foster a life-long love of music through inspiring students to develop their musical talent and develop inquisitive, creative and problem-solving mindsets. This curriculum has been designed to be diverse and celebratory to allow students to enjoy and explore a wide-ranging introduction to music and find their sense of musical identity. In this curriculum there is a strong focus on becoming skilful on an instrument. Keyboard, ukulele and singing are taught throughout years 7, 8 and 9. As the curriculum is introduced in year 7 specific skills are focused on in isolation in order to develop control and confidence. As we move into year 8 students will start to focus on more complex skills and start to develop control of interrelated elements. In year 9, the

aim is to develop independence in students' musicianship. The curriculum aims to develop students' performing, composing and listening skills, all of which are discrete areas of assessment at Key Stage 4 and 5. Finally, we integrate plenty of opportunities to develop music production skills, both as a technical skill in itself and as a tool for enabling creativity.

Key Stage 4:

For GCSE we use the Eduqas specification which (like all GCSE specifications) splits the disciplines into 3 key assessment areas:

Listening (40%)

Performing (30%)

Composing (30%).

Within these discrete disciplines, Eduqas breaks this down into four areas of study which are:

AOS1: Musical forms and devices

AOS2: Musical ensembles

AOS3: Film Music

AOS4: Popular Music

Part B: Extra-curricular music

Instrument Lessons:

Here at Millthorpe we have a fabulous team of instrumental teachers who offer one to one and small group tuition on most instruments. Whether you want to work towards a graded exam, or learn to play your favourite songs, our teachers can tailor students' lessons to their interests and ambitions. If you would like express interest in having lessons, please complete this form: www.tinyurl.com/instrumentlessonsatmillthorpe

Please note that funding is available for looked after children/those on free school meals/and Pupil Premium students to receive instruments lessons without incurring cost.

Qualifications:

All of our instrumental teachers are experienced in preparing students for graded exams across a wide range of syllabuses.

Our extra-curricular ensembles are as follows:

Guitar group: Welcome to all guitarists of all abilities. Come 'rock out' on Monday lunch times where our older and more experienced students are on hand to help younger students develop their playing and ensemble skills.

Jazz band: Our jazz band rehearses on Tuesday lunch times playing a range of repertoire including 1940's swing, Latin jazz, 1980s fusion and some soul music thrown in for good measure.

Choir: Our choir meets on Wednesday lunch times for a joyous half hour of singing in harmony.

Brass Group: This group meets on Wednesday lunchtimes and is open to brass players (and the occasional saxophonist). This group is a contemporary brass ensemble playing pop and rock repertoire as well as more traditional repertoire expected by a brass ensemble.

Millthorpe Band: This band is open to all players. It is a flexible band with parts available for all instruments and mixed abilities. We play well known classical repertoire, movie themes and the occasional pop tune.

Karaoke Club: This takes place on week B Fridays with Mr. Baybutt. All welcome; it's a good laugh!

Composition Clinics: For Key Stage 4 students, this session allows students more time on the software to develop their compositions.

Please note that all of our extra-curricular ensembles are free of charge; just come along and have fun making music!

Access to Practice Rooms:

We have 2 practice rooms available. When they are not being used by our instrumental teachers they are available for students to utilise for individual practice at lunch time and after school.

Second Study Project:

We are currently running a second study project to enable first study pianists to learn a band instrument. In order to facilitate this the department funds the hire of instruments and subsidises the costs of lessons for the first academic year.

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.

Christmas Concert: This year the Christmas concert will take place at the start of December and feature all of our main ensembles.

The School Production:

December sees the annual school production, this year 'Matilda', take to the stage for 3 nights.

Arts Festival:

The Excel MAT hosts an Arts Festival every July which allows for all primaries and secondaries to showcase their music, drama, dance and art work for the year. The occasion is a celebration of our arts and our community. This is a fabulous performance opportunity for our students.

Music Assemblies:

Music is embedded within assemblies at certain key points of the year, such as remembrance celebrations, celebration assemblies and Christmas.

Leavers' Concert:

This concert celebrates the work of those in year 11 leaving the school community. This concert features all of our ensembles and is interspersed with solo pieces by our year 11 students. This concert will be scheduled for just before study leave begins.

Open Mic Night:

In the Spring term our year 10 and 11 students will hold an informal open mic night, which will be entirely organised and led by the students.

Discounted Concert Tickets:

With our links with the music hub, students can access discounted (and sometimes free) concert tickets for local orchestras. When these opportunities become available, students will be informed via communication home by letter.

In the future

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

Organ Repair Work:

Going forward we are looking to repair the pipe organ to open up the opportunity for students to learn to play this beautiful instrument. This is a multi-year project dependent on funding and repair work solutions.

Building Partnerships in the Community:

Millthorpe is based in a lively, arts-positive area of York. Over the course of this academic year the head of department will be seeking new opportunities to perform within the community.

Improving the quality of instrument stock:

Over the course of the next few years, fundraising concerts will build revenue to repair and replace some equipment. The first priority of this will be acoustic pianos; as a school with around 200 pianists we sadly don't have an acoustic piano. We are therefore looking to rectify this situation. If you would like to support us in this, we have set up a 'Sponsor A Key' fundraiser, with sponsorship available to sign up to on parentpay. If any external stakeholders would like to sponsor a key, please get in touch with Subject Lead for Music, Alice Longbottom, on a.longbottom@millthorpe.southbank.academy.

Developing A Community of Singers:

The singing culture at Millthorpe requires development; in the past there has been a separation between instrument playing and singing and often musicians do not see singing as an integral part of their musical development. This is an aspect that will be developed going forward through integration of singing in lessons and a push on recruitment for choir.

Further information (optional)

Local music groups that we encourage students to get involved with:

York Music Education: York Music Ed runs a music centre based at Millthorpe school and offers an excellent service for students; they have very reasonable instrument hire rates and fantastic ensembles to get involved in on a Wednesday evening and Saturday morning.

Shepherd Group Brass Band: A number of our students attend Shepherd's Brass Band which is an excellent opportunity for developing brass players.

York Music Forum: This organisation specialises in jazz education for young musicians and offers some very high calibre ensemble opportunities.

Our Musical Partners:

York Music Hub: York music hub support Millthorpe music department through CPD, access to funding and networking.

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.