

Tadcaster Grammar School

Music Development Plan 2025-26 Summary:

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mr C Rodaway
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr M Dunphy
Name of local music hub	North Yorkshire 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 TGS our vision is that all students can access a practical, engaging and well-sequenced Music curriculum. We want students to leave TGS having developed performance skills, been creative in the art of composition and having engaged in a deeper and broader understanding of the world of Music.

We are proud to deliver timetabled curriculum Music lessons at KS3 for one hour a week, as per the national plan for music education. At KS4 we teach the Eduqas GCSE course. Our current time allocation for KS4 is 4 hrs/fortnight in year 10 and 5 hrs/fortnight in year 11. More detail about our Music curriculum can be found [HERE](#).

Our KS3 curriculum is split into three components: performing, composing and understanding. We have used the Model Music curriculum to help inform our curriculum design, particularly with regards to our 'Composer of the week' activity - a short listening activity at the start of each KS3 lesson. This activity is designed to

broaden students Musical listening and use of Musical literacy. Our composing units use the Digital Audio Workstation “Bandlab” and encourage students to compose for a variety of purposes and genres. Students also build composition knowledge throughout KS3 such as using loops to understand texture, MIDI sequencing and editing, including automating FX and volume. Our performing units allow students the opportunity to develop instrumental and performance skills as both soloists and as a member of an ensemble. Students have the opportunity to play the ukulele, keyboard, xylophone, guitar and to sing. Our curriculum is sequenced in such a way that ukulele and keyboard skills are developed in each year and can then be applied in an ensemble performance unit.

Our KS4 curriculum follows the Eduqas GCSE specification and is split into the same three components as our KS3 curriculum. Students pick an instrument to develop on as a soloist and as part of an ensemble and are encouraged to access instrumental/vocal lessons from the North Yorkshire Music Hub. Students also continue to develop their composition work, composing in a variety of styles and genres, deepening their understanding of how composition works. We also focus on the four Areas of Study given by the exam board and explore these in greater depth to develop their understanding of Music: including film music, popular music, music for ensemble and musical forms and devices.

We understand that not everyone will find a practical subject easy. As per the EEF, we use verbal feedback as a regular and normal way of working to allow us to give personalised feedback to all students. To support students further we carry out frequent retrieval activities to embed key knowledge and skills and we also provide resources such as keyboard diagrams to help reduce working-memory overload until the students are ready to try without these scaffolds in place. Each unit at KS3 has a challenge table in place and this in itself helps to scaffold learning for students, giving them step by step instructions on how to progress. We also work effectively with TAs to ensure progress for all.

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.

At TGS we want to give students as many opportunities as possible to support their Musical growth. This includes our individual/small group lessons and weekly lunchtime/after school ensembles.

Instrumental/vocal lessons

We have tutors from the North Yorkshire Music Hub that visit the school on a weekly basis to provide instrumental and vocal lessons to our students. Lessons are offered on a range of instruments including brass, woodwind, guitar, drums, vocals, piano and strings. Lessons take place in our Music practice rooms and are on a rotating timetable to reduce the impact on other curriculum lessons. Further information regarding these lessons, fees and also to request lessons can be found [HERE](#). Please note there are discounts available for Looked After students and those in receipt of Free School Meals and Working Tax Credits.

For most of these lessons you are expected to provide your own instrument (not piano or drums - but you would still need one to practise on at home). Instruments can be hired from the North Yorkshire Music Hub or we have a large assortment of instruments available to loan from school, free for the first year, subject to availability.

Ensembles

We run an active programme of ensembles each week which has opportunities for all students to get involved. These ensembles are open to students from all year groups - please see your Music teacher for more information and to get a lunch pass. There are timetables around the Music department to tell you when and where these rehearsals will be. All ensembles take place at lunchtime in the Music department except for the Concert Band which is after school (until 4:15pm) in the main hall.

Ensembles we run include: Pop choir, Concert Band, Big Band, Composition club, Jam Clubs (open to anyone that wants to be in a band!), Brass group, Woodwind group and DJ club.

Practice space

We have 3 practice rooms and 2 ensemble rooms on top of our normal Music classrooms which students are welcome to use at break and lunch times, please just ask a Music teacher.

Other opportunities

Here are links to some other musical opportunities available in the local area:

<https://www.yorkmusicforum.com/>

<https://www.yorkmusiced.org.uk/index.php/what-we-do/york-music-centre/information>

<https://www.selby-high.org.uk/Parents/Music-Centre/>

<https://artformsleeds.co.uk/music/citywide-and-community-music-making/music-centres/wetherby-music-centre/>

<https://artformsleeds.co.uk/music/citywide-and-community-music-making/music-centres/north-leeds-music-centre/>

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.

Throughout the year we also offer many opportunities for students to engage in different musical experiences.

Performances

Each term we have a showcase where our student ensembles and soloists are able to perform to an audience. Our Christmas Showcase will also include a whole year group performance from our new Year 7s. We also do a joint production with the Drama department each year in February, this is open to all students.

Activities

As well as performances, we also provide opportunities for students to experience different genres and instruments. Previously this has included Taiko drumming workshops, DJ sessions, Composition workshops and Careers seminars. This year we are going to be hosting an Army band for the day to find out more about what they do.

For events away from school and events in school with visiting tutors we may ask for a voluntary contribution to allow us to continue providing these experiences. Pupil Premium students will be subsidised.

In the future

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

We want to continue developing and building a thriving Music department here at TGS.

In terms of our curriculum, we wish to develop this to deliver a KS5 Music course which is suitable for our students. We aim to offer students the opportunity to take either A level or BTEC Music as a post-16 option.

We would like to offer more opportunities for our students to both perform and to be an audience. We would also like to run an international music tour for our students in the future.

We hope to develop the number of instrumentalists we have in school, particularly brass, woodwind and strings to continue the growth of our ensembles and in the future have a string orchestra. We are continuing to run our Brass group this year and are also starting a Woodwind group for students to have an introduction to either the clarinet or saxophone.

As we are part of the Yorkshire Learning Trust we would also like to further develop our musical links with our partner primary schools and other primary and secondary schools within the MAT.