

Music development plan summary:

Dixons Brooklands Academy – Manchester

This document is designed to give a summary of the high-quality music provision at this academy in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, considering the key features in the national plan for music education:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for Key Stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of academy leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Louise Moreton
Name of local music hub	Manchester Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Dixons Academies Trust - Director of Music, Tamsin Rafnsson

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students 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 students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students’ 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 students can achieve.

- Music is a timetabled subject with a one-hour lesson per fortnight.
- Year 7 to 9 focus on three topics a year:
 - Year 7: the elements of music and structure, the elements of music and Dance Macabre, performance
 - Year 8: Film music, Blues music, African music
 - Year 9: The Beatles, Reggae music, Grime (electronic dance music)
- Year 10 and 11 students study the BTEC Tech Award; they have five lessons per fortnight.
- The music curriculum is designed to engage all students, offering them opportunities to develop their skills, explore personal areas of musical interest, and perform on a variety of instruments. The program is inclusive, ensuring that pupils with SEND can actively participate and experience the joy of music-making.



- Music performance plays a vital role in school life at every key stage. Students regularly showcase their talents during annual events, and there is significant cross-curricular collaboration, particularly within the performing arts.
- Through a range of group settings—whole class, small groups, pairs, and independent work—students are encouraged to expand their creative and practical experiences. This approach builds confidence, enhances performing abilities, and fosters a deeper understanding of musical expression.
- Students explore composing and performing using an array of instruments, including percussion such as djembe drums, glockenspiels and agogo bells, alongside keyboards and boomwhackers.
- Technology also supports student learning, with software like Bandlab and Sibelius enabling them to create and produce music digitally.
- Additional instrumental lessons, delivered by skilled peripatetic teachers from One Education and Trafford Music Service, enrich the curriculum offering. Students can receive instruction in keyboard, steel pans, singing, and guitar—fully funded by DBK and offered at no cost to families.
- This comprehensive and inclusive approach ensures every student can discover, develop, and celebrate their musical talents.
- At Key Stage 4, students undertake the BTEC Tech Award in Music, which provides a dynamic and practical approach to music education. Students have the freedom to perform and compose using their chosen instrument or voice, allowing for personalised expression and growth.
- The course equips students with a solid understanding of various music products and the techniques involved in their creation. They delve into the ways musical elements, technology, and other resources come together in the composition, production, and performance of music.
- Through hands-on exploration, students investigate the defining features of different musical styles and deepen their grasp of music theory. This knowledge is applied as they develop their own innovative and creative work, blending theoretical insights with practical skills.

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.

- In addition to the core music curriculum, students can access small group instrumental tuition for guitar, steel pans, keyboard, and vocal training, led by expert peripatetic teachers. These lessons, which range from 30 minutes to 1 hour, are provided free of charge to Dixons Brooklands Academy students.
- The school offers a variety of extra-curricular music groups to cater to different skill levels, including beginner and intermediate steel pan ensembles, beginner and intermediate guitar groups, a keyboard group, and a choir with vocal coaching. For Key Stage 4 students, there is also a dedicated Year 10 BTEC band.
- Dixons Brooklands Academy provides all instruments, ensuring accessibility for all students. Rehearsal and performance opportunities are available during break times, lunchtimes, and after school. The school is equipped with two rehearsal rooms, including one that houses a complete set of steel pan instruments, providing a vibrant and supportive environment for students to develop their musical skills.
- Any students interested in starting lessons or attending one of the music clubs should speak to their music teacher about this opportunity.

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. Students have numerous opportunities to showcase their talents at a variety of events throughout the year, highlighting the vibrant and inclusive music culture of the academy:

- Academy Open Evenings: each year, the music department contributes to Open Evenings with captivating performances. Highlights include steel pan ensembles, djembe workshops with audience participation, as well as solo and duet performances. The choir and musical groups also take to the stage, showcasing their skills and enthusiasm.
- Christmas Concert: this annual event celebrates student talent in the assembly hall theatre, featuring a rich line-up of performances. These include steel pans, choir, guitar groups, BTEC band pieces, and solos, duets, or trios. The event also integrates a scene from the annual musical and a dance performance, demonstrating the collaboration between music, drama, and dance.
- Annual musical: a highlight of the year, the musical brings together students across dance, drama, and music for after-school rehearsals and dedicated Saturday sessions for technical and dress rehearsals. Students also engage as part of the backstage crew, managing stage movement, set design, costumes, makeup, and front-of-house responsibilities, making it a truly collaborative endeavour.



- Lunchtime recitals: throughout the year, students perform at lunchtime events in the school canteen, creating a lively and celebratory atmosphere. These recitals have included performances for Royal celebrations, Christmas dinners, and summer parties, fostering a sense of community and joy.
- Dixons Collaboration Concert - Summer Term: we are excited to develop this event into an annual tradition. This initiative brings together students from all Dixons schools for a day of rehearsals culminating in a spectacular evening performance for an audience.

In the future

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

- This academic year, we are aiming to strengthen our collaboration with the drama and dance departments, enriching students' cross-curricular experiences. Planned initiatives include an activity week featuring additional performances and musical theatre trips, providing students with exciting new opportunities to engage with the performing arts.
- The music department is also expanding its resources by acquiring more keyboards, ensuring every student can perform independently. Portable keyboards will be included, enabling performances such as the keyboard club's anticipated showcase at the Christmas Concert.
- One of our exciting future projects is the 'Pond Beats' initiative—a three-day cross-curricular workshop combining science, music, and English. This project, in partnership with RENEW, the National Trust, and The Poetry Society, will offer students a unique blend of creative and academic exploration. All transport costs for participants will be fully covered.

Further information

Please find below some useful links which you may find helpful when considering your child's musical experiences inside and outside the academy:

- Department for Education music guide: the Department for Education provides a comprehensive guide for parents and young people, detailing how students can engage with music both in and out of school. The guide also highlights available support beyond the school environment. You can view the guide here: [Music education: information for parents and young people - GOV.UK](#)
- Local music hubs: explore information on local music hubs, which offer additional resources, opportunities, and support for young musicians. You can view this information here: [Music Hubs | Arts Council England](#)
- BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice: [BTEC](#)

