

Music development plan summary: York High School



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	November 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Rachel Lancaster
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Steve Hardy
Name of local music hub	York Music Hub

Our Vision:

We want to nurture creative thinkers. Our intent is to ensure music is accessible for every student. Music enables us to experience the world around us and gives us the tools to explore it in a safe environment. We want our students to be able to use Music as an expressive tool where they don't always have the vocabulary. This ensures our students leave YHS as Resilient, Aspirational and Successful contributors to society.

The vision for the Performing Arts Department at York High School is one that is at the core of the community that we serve. One that not only provides excellent Music and Drama provision within the classroom, which creates creative thinkers, problem solvers, performers and composers but also one which provides the opportunity for cultural capital for all students and contributes to a happy school.

Intent:

- Our intent is to ensure music is accessible for every student.
- We want our students to be able to use Music as an expressive tool
- Our students leave YHS as Resilient, Aspirational and Successful contributors to society.

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, tuition and ensemble and School Life and Opportunities – 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.

Our plan for delivering high-quality music education and supporting children's progress.

Where are we now?	What will we do next?
Curriculum Design We are now in our 2nd year of increased curriculum time: 2 hours of Drama and 2 hours of Music over a 2 week timetable. This brings us in line with the DfE's recommendation of the equivalent of 1hr of Music a week at KS3. We have planned our extended curriculum to accommodate the extra hours. Since January 2022, we have overhauled both our KS3 curriculum and KS4 curriculum and changed GCSE exam boards. We have begun dual coding our lessons.	Some lessons need to be written alongside PoS and shared with all staff. Ensure interleaving of skills is evident and explicit throughout. Continue to monitor our GCSE results and implement change where the need is identified. Embed this throughout our lessons and develop a common language for dual coding across the department. Communicate these changes with current staff and also incoming non-specialist staff. Communicate with the pastoral lead to plan to build Music into assemblies to broaden student's horizons. Use Pupil voice to understand what type of music they would like to sing. Consider the year 7 Music curriculum and identify further areas to incorporate singing.
Singing Although singing is established in terms of extra curricular and through the school show, this now needs to be embedded throughout the school The Musical Theatre SoW was successful last academic year.	Embed assessment more thoroughly and concisely throughout the KS3 curriculum. Points of assessment should be curriculum based more than data collection points based, but this will be kept in mind.
Assessment AREs have been developed across Music and Drama. We have developed the Performing Arts proforma for assessment at KS3 incorporating both teacher and self assessment This has been communicated with Drama staff so there is coherence across the Performing Arts department.	

New staff and non specialist staff have been onboarded so they understand the assessment procedures	
New members of staff	Develop resource booklets for each year group in Drama and each topic in Music to assist with cover situations and non specialist staff. This will also help on keeping an overview on budget.

Part B: Tuition and Ensemble

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.

Where are we now?	What will we do next?
Instrumental Ensemble Provision Singing Group Show - Matilda, We Will Rock You, Grease and currently rehearsing Annie. Choral Festival Making Tracks Yr8 Personal Development Day with STOMP, Beatboxing and Rap/Lyrics writing PP, FSM, LAC bursaries Uptake in instrumental lessons has increased from 5 students to around 30 students. ELT Arts Festival REACH Project Pilot Theatre partnership Handed out letters at Yr6 induction day YTR workshops	York Music Hub (YMH) have continued with bursaries for families on Universal Credit, which will fund 30% of the cost of lessons. Letters at the Year 6 uniform evening in July. Regularly post in the newsletter Responsibility of the sign up has passed from YMH to YHS. RLA continues to be in charge of this going forward and coordinating the peripatetic teachers. Increase show uptake Increase numbers of students accessing extra-curricular provision Continue the link with YMH to develop opportunities for the school. Gabielli Roar - October 2025 DJ-ing link with the University of York Music Technology links Theatre visits

Part C: School Life and Opportunities

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.

Where are we now?	What will we do next?
Leadership & Advocacy Excellent level of support from SLT. Value of Music The Performing Arts Department has made large steps over the last two and a half years to become a key contributor to the 'happiness' of the school. Students are more aware of the importance of Music in their curriculum and can articulate this. Excellent student turnout at the Festive Showcase 2024. REACH project Elevate project Year 8 Personal Development Day Excellent support from SLT	RLA to work with CKI to develop links with governors Staff involvement in the Festive Showcase - staff panto and singing group CPD for staff on the importance of Music Continue working with Pilot Theatre Collaborate with YMH