

Music development plan summary: Todmorden High School

2025-26

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	Sept 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Sept 2026
Name of the school music lead	Alice Brockman (Head of Performing Arts)
Name of local music hub	Calderdale Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music for the Many

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.

Key Stage 3:

- Music is taught at KS3 on a half year rotation shared with drama. This equates to 18–20, hour-long lessons per year.
- The curriculum follows schemes of learning designed in house, covering the aims and subject content suggested within the National Curriculum.
- Multiple assessment snapshots are gathered over the rotation period per year for all students. This gives us an overview of student progress throughout different topics and across the whole of key stage 3.
- The curriculum, home learning tasks (carousel learning) and assessment plans are outlined within the curriculum synergy documents here: [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

- Students sing and use their voice at multiple times through the KS3 curriculum. Topic one in year 7 (musicianship) and topic one in year 8 (ukulele skills) are points in the curriculum where singing is developed in depth. The year 7 musicianship scheme is delivered using the Kodály approach.
- Whole class ensemble teaching is used at multiple times across the KS3 curriculum. These are - Year 7 musicianship scheme (voice), Peter and the Wolf scheme (piano), year 8 ukulele scheme, year 9 Indian and blues schemes (piano and percussion).
- Within the curriculum, year 9 students are introduced to electronic composition and music technology, through using the DAW Mixcraft.

Key Stage 4:

- At KS4 the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice (2022) is delivered across year 10 and 11. Each year group receives three, hour-long lessons per week. The curriculum planning document can be found here: [PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- At KS4 some students choose to focus their main performance study on the voice throughout the course.
- At KS4 for Component 1 of the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice, each genre and style taught provides an opportunity for whole class ensemble performance.
- This is the main form of composition and music technology used at KS4.

Resources

- The music department is resourced with a main teaching classroom with a Yamaha baby grand piano, and two small rehearsal rooms, each with an acoustic upright piano and an electric piano.

Class sets of instruments:

-Keyboards

-Boom whackers

-Glockenspiels

-Ukuleles

-Guitars

-Computers, installed with the program Mixcraft. Each computer also has a midi keyboard which students use when composing and access to an audio interface device to record live performance into Mixcraft.

Band Equipment:

- Electric and bass guitars
- A range of amplifiers and microphones
- Acoustic and electronic drum kits

Orchestral instruments:

- Violin, cello, flute, clarinet, trombone, trumpet, French horn and percussion.

We also have a full set of steel pans on loan from Calderdale music hub.

<https://www.calderdalemusic.co.uk>

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.

- All students have access to extra-curricular musical opportunities at lunch and after school each week. These currently include - rock band, steel pan club, singing club and orchestra. The steel pan club, rock band and singing club is run by the Head of Music.
- The Orchestra is run by tutors from Music for the Many. A local music charity that provides free music tuition and performance opportunities to children in Todmorden. <https://music4themanymany.com>
- Disadvantaged students are supported and encouraged to take part in extracurricular music, particularly if they show an interest in learning a musical instrument where some funding is obtained from the pupil premium budget.
- Piano is a very popular instrument at Todmorden High School and we have a number of students each year who regularly come to practice independently in the music department each week.
- Music practice rooms are available to any student wishing to use the space and for individual music lessons.
- The main annual performance opportunities and concerts that students regularly take part in include:

- Christmas concert
- Summer concert
- Primary transition summer event
- Open evening
- Options evening

-Christmas lunch and other smaller performances.

Orchestra students also take part in the annual Todmorden Youth Orchestra concert that is held at Todmorden High School. This consists of all the students from feeder primary schools within the town coming to perform together at the high school under the direction of Daniel Bath from Music for the Many.

- There are 7 visiting music tutors offering individual and group instrumental lessons each week. The current offer is for piano, guitar, bass, banjo, ukulele, drum kit, piano, violin, cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trombone, trumpet, french horn and percussion.
- Visiting music tutors use ABRSM, Trinity rock & pop and other exam boards for any student wishing to take graded performance exams.
- Connections with the local music hub, Calderdale music provides, training, resources, performance opportunities, teaching and instrument hire.

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.

- Annual concerts include Christmas and summer concerts, family primary transition summer event, Todmorden Youth Orchestra concert.
- Smaller performance opportunities include student musical ambassadors at open evening, options evening and Christmas community lunch.
- Local music trips include free tickets to see Todmorden Symphony Orchestra, courtesy of the Friends of Todmorden Orchestra. Live band performances of KS5 students from Burnley College. Youth music competition for Todmorden Folk Festival and access to local concerts organised by Music for the Many.
- Recent examples of the concerts organised by Music for the Many include the colour chord vocal project with folk musicians John Boden and Alice Jones. Singing Nasheeds with Hussnain Hanif and Hindi film songs with Yorkshire Bollywood Orchestra, singing and BSL with Amy-Rose Atkinson and music and poetry for Todmorden Book Festival. All of these musical experiences are advertised within the department and the school weekly newsletter, to encourage students to take part or enjoy as an audience member.
- Last year, staff and students from every year group were involved in a whole school singing project called Colour chord. This project was organised through Music for the Many and funded by Arts Council England. The colour chord project was invented and delivered by folk musician John Boden which involved whole year groups of students and staff singing in four-part harmony.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAIZvaBFANw>

- The local music hub, Calderdale music, have previously organised performances at Victoria theatre in Halifax and a battle of the bands competition for the school rock bands.

In the future

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

- In addition to the visiting music tutors, we would like to reinstate a singing teacher, to encourage and support students wishing to take singing lessons.
- Due to the vocational nature of the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice, we would like to set up visits and sessions at local music venues such as the Trades Club in Hebden Bridge and local recording studios. This would provide excellent recording and performance learning opportunities for our students.
- We would like to continue working with Burnley college to strengthen the links to KS5 opportunities for our students wishing to continue their musical learning.
- We aim to streamline and convert to electronic assessment captures, leading to a smoother and more accurate gathering of data.
- We will continue to resource the new BTEC Tech Award course and form links with other schools to support the assessment and moderation process.
- We wish to create more opportunities from the curriculum budget for performance workshops for all students.
- We aim to develop the steel pan club with a view to perform within the local town carnival or at a public event within the town.
- We wish to develop music student leadership with KS4 pupils to support younger students with extra-curricular clubs, and for students to engage in professional roles such as the sound and lighting team for shows and concerts.