

Music Development Plan

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	Nov 24
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 25
Name of the school music lead	Mrs J King
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Mr H Singh
Name of local music hub	SFE Music Service Birmingham

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 our students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

QB Music Department Vision Statement:

At Queensbridge School's Music Department, we strive to create a dynamic and inclusive environment where every student can explore, create, and excel in music. Whilst the benefits of a good music education on academic achievement are well documented, we believe that music is an important subject in its own right; one in which students are challenged both in their academic knowledge and their personal development. Guided by the school's core values of Respect, Kindness, Resilience, Leadership, and Aspiration, we aim to inspire a lifelong passion for music by fostering creativity, critical appreciation, and collaboration. We are committed to aligning our teaching with current research and publications, ensuring that our students receive a high-quality, well-rounded music education. Our department seeks to cultivate respectful musicians who appreciate the diverse cultural and historical significance of music while developing the technical and expressive skills needed to succeed. Through innovative teaching, performance opportunities, and community engagement, we empower our students to contribute meaningfully to the world through the universal language of music.

During their curriculum music lessons at Queensbridge, students will be challenged to perform with increasing dexterity and musicality on different instruments and vocally, working both as individuals and as part of an ensemble. They will be asked to create musical ideas and develop them in response to a musical brief, exploring different compositional devices as they go. They will listen to different pieces of music and explore how to describe and understand the context of those pieces. We believe that this

will not only increase their enjoyment of music but will also develop important skills for their future careers, whether in the creative industries or elsewhere.

Queensbridge students are also given the chance to take part in various clubs and experiences, from Orchestra and Vocal Group to Music Tech Club and student led bands. We work with several external partners such as the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group and The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire to provide exciting and inspiring opportunities. Instrumental lessons are provided in school by The Music Service (Services for Education) and many students receiving these lessons who require an instrument are provided with one on a free hire basis.

At Queensbridge music often forms an integral part of school events and celebrations throughout the year, so there are many opportunities for pupils to perform for each other and wider community audiences. We consider participation as an audience member and as a performer to be vital experiences in developing well rounded musicians.

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 Queensbridge music is studied as part of an Arts rotation in years 7 to 9. Student can then choose to take music as part of their options in Year 10.

In year 7 students will explore performance on instruments and voice, both as soloists and ensembles. They will learn notation skills which they will use to compose a melody. They will explore how to create a soundscape using the elements of music and experiment with different scales. They start using musical vocabulary when describing music they have heard, performed or composed.

In year 8, we move on to understanding compositional devices such as chords, bass line and improvisation through an exploration of The Blues. Students also start to learn how to sequence, using a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) and exploring different ways of inputting and editing sound. They learn how to manipulate loops and sequence a drum pattern, creating their own Bhangra track, and then move on to create their own remix of Grieg's *In the Hall of the Mountain King*.

Year 9 builds on that sequencing knowledge as students continue to explore how to realise creative ideas on a DAW, whilst also considering how to create music in response to a given brief. This project requires students to create a whole composition from scratch in which they are expected make use of musical devices such as ostinato and drones, chord sequences and melody, and then show an understanding of how to develop musical ideas. In 24-25 we are developing a new part of the year 9 curriculum which will develop the students' use of a DAW so that they can recreate an existing

song. This will prepare pupils should they wish to use music technology as a performance option in GCSE music.

Our aim is that by the end of KS3 students should know:

- The musical elements, and how they can be used to develop a musical idea.
- How to describe a piece of music they are listening to with musical vocabulary.
- How to prepare a fluent, accurate and expressive performance on an instrument/voice, and what makes a good performance.
- How to perform in an ensemble, developing a sense of pulse and knowledge of how to keep in time with others.
- How to use a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW), including inputting, quantising, editing, copying, pasting and structuring.
- How to use compositional conventions/devices (ostinato, chords, drone, melody).

In KS4 we currently offer music GCSE and have a higher than national average uptake of the course.

Students have access to instrumental music lessons delivered by The Birmingham Music Service.

Extra-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.

We work with the Birmingham Music Service to provide opportunities for instrumental tuition in school. Currently there are 160 students who are benefiting from this opportunity who can choose from a wide variety of instruments including all stringed, woodwind, and brass instruments, as well as drums, dhol, piano, guitar (electric, classical and bass) and steel pans. Pupils on free school meals can access half price tuition and we are using Pupil Premium funding to increase access to lessons.

For more information about instrumental lessons please see the following document: [Music Lessons info 24.docx](#)

We will offer opportunities for all students to join musical ensembles throughout the year. Our current extra-curricular program is available as part of the whole school offer which can be accessed on our website:

<https://www.queensbridge.bham.sch.uk/page/?title=Clubs+and+Wider+Learning&pid=2>

[3](#) Some of the ensembles, such as QB orchestra and Jazz Band, require some instrumental/vocal experience prior to joining whilst others, such as Vocal Group and Music Tech Club, are open to students of all levels.

We also encourage pupils to seek out appropriate ensembles outside of school as well. The Music Service provide an excellent program of free ensembles which students will be told about by their teacher, or they can come and talk to Mrs King for further information. In addition, we have several students involved in SoundLab BRUM program run by the Birmingham Conservatoire. This is open to instrumentalists/singers of all abilities and information and sign up is available here: <https://www.soundlabonline.org.uk/join-soundlab>

We encourage pupils to form their own music groups such as rock bands and have a couple of practise rooms which they can book for rehearsal. We also have a music studio which can be used to record performances. If they wish to take up these opportunities they should speak to Mrs King or Mr Kumar.

Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as performing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

Each year at Queensbridge we provide several opportunities for students to perform and to be an audience. Of course, every student in KS3 and those in GCSE music at KS4 will perform to and be an audience for others in their class during their curriculum lessons. However, there are also other events that enable pupils to perform to wider audiences. These include:

- Student pianists performing on our grand piano during Monday break time.
- Digital performances planned monthly this academic year to be released via the school's Instagram account.
- Piano Recital on Monday the 25th November 2024
- Christmas Concert on Thursday the 19th December
- The Voice Competition held in the Spring Term and culminating on Tuesday the 8th April.
- The QB Band Night also on Tuesday the 8th of April
- The Summer Concert on Thursday the 10th of July
- Stronger Together Community Festival on Saturday the 28th of June

We also look for concerts to take our students to. Already in planning for this academic year is a trip to take the whole of Y7 to see the CBSO in concert in February 25, and the KS4 classes will also have the opportunity to see the CBSO live at least once.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning.

- We are exploring options for bringing vocal tuition into school.
- We want to expand the opportunities for pupils to perform in school during the school day (such as during assemblies or break/lunchtimes).
- We are currently researching software as we want to update our DAW (Digital Audio Workstation). This is part of our strategy to enable students to achieve performance using music technology for GCSE music.
- As an Arts faculty we are in the process of reviewing our KS3 curriculum. As part of the process, I have visited other schools and spoken to leading music educators including Professor Anthony Anderson and Liz Dunbar. I also attended the Music Teacher Association conference in May 24 which provided useful opportunities to reflect on our curriculum and ensure that it reflects the latest thinking in music education.
- As a department we are supporting other local music departments.