

Music development plan summary: Castleford Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Sarah Buckingham
Name of local music hub	
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Musical Futures Northern Ballet

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.

The overall curriculum intent at Castleford Academy is that our core values of care, aspire, succeed are at the heart of everything we do. We set high expectations to ensure that every pupil excels across all aspects of academy life.

Our intention is to ensure pupils make outstanding progress and that the curriculum removes any potential barriers to learning.

We want our pupils to leave with knowledge and skills which will not only create excellent life opportunities but will also prepare them exceptionally well for life beyond the academy.

At Castleford Academy, pupils will:

- experience a broad, deep and knowledge rich curriculum;
- be literate and numerate;
- have high expectations for their behaviour and achievement;
- build their character;
- develop their cultural, social, moral, mental and physical development;
- secure foundations for progression.

The Music Department at Castleford Academy encompasses this and aims to provide pupils with a relevant, inspiring and diverse curriculum which will spark their curiosity and creativity around music. As advised by the National Curriculum, our Music curriculum aims to provide “high quality music education” which “engages and inspires pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.” (National Curriculum 2022)

Pupils at Castleford Academy will develop their musicianship through exposure to the powerful and disciplinary knowledge outlined below:

Powerful knowledge (substantive – development of skills) in music is:

- Knowledge and confidence to approach the learning of a new musical instrument using the correct instrumental technique as it is taught.
- Knowledge and understanding of how to compose musical ideas using staff and graphic notation and be able to communicate these effectively with others.
- Knowledge and understanding of the musical elements (MAD T SHIRT). Be able to talk about music with confidence using musical terminology and with reference to these elements.

Key disciplinary knowledge is (practice of knowledge):

- *Performance*
- *Composition*
- *Informed listening and appraisal of music through appropriate reference to the musical elements.*

Key Stage 3 Music

In line with the fundamentals of the DfE’s Model Music Curriculum (2021), by the end of Key Stage 3 (Year 9), pupils will have:

- Gained an aural knowledge of some of the great musical output of human civilisation
- Engaged with creative processes through improvisation and composition
- Built an understanding of how musical elements work and discussed how these interact with subjective and objective models of musical meaning
- Developed knowledge of a wider range of notes and improved their fluency in music notation. Notation can grant access to a lifelong passion for music making if this skill is nurtured.

To support achievement of these aims, pupils at Key Stage 3 are taught music for one hour per week. The curriculum delivers topics which cover and answer the following big questions:

Year 7 *What key knowledge and skills do I need to understand and study music?*

Year 8 *Where has music come from and how has it influenced the music of today?*

Year 9 *What is the music industry and how does it contribute to the music I hear around me every day?*

In answering these big questions, the curriculum covers music from a wide range of cultures and backgrounds, highlighting some of the great composers from each genre/era. Pupil will not only learn the historical and cultural context of music they study, but will have the opportunity to work on mastery of instrumental technique on a range of instruments including keyboard, ukulele, djembe, voice, bass guitar and drums.

A summary of the KS3 curriculum plan for 2024-25 is outlined on the following page.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Term 1	Exploring Music • “What is music?”: Introduction to listening and appraisal, performance and composition. • Instruments of the Orchestra • Introduction to Rhythm • African Drumming Ensemble Performance Project	The Journey of Music: Ancient - Romantic • Study of the development of music through time looking at the Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical and Romantic eras highlighting key features and great composers of each era. • Development of composition skills through the study of Pachelbels Canon. Composing a melody with passing notes over a chord sequence in Bandlab. • Development of keyboard technique through study of <i>Für Elise</i> by Beethoven. • Study of music of some of the great composers from across the eras to develop listening and appraisal skills.	The Music Industry: Film Music • What is the purpose of music in film? • Mood-matching in composition. • Exploring the compositional devices used in film music through performance and how these are applied. • Study of the role of film music composers. • Composition project around composing music for a film clip using Bandlab/Garageband
Term 2	Treble Clef Notation and Keyboard Performance Skills • How to read and write treble clef notation. • Keyboard performance technique. • How to prepare and present an effective solo performance. • Composition of simple melodies using treble clef notation.	The Journey of Music: 20th Century to the Present Day • Study of the development of key popular genres of the 20th century, eg. Blues and Reggae. • Historical context of different popular music genres and a look at some of the great composers of these. • Pop song structures. • Development of instrumental skills as part of an ensemble.	The Music Industry: Performance • Study of the performance aspect of the music industry with focus on different types of performers and the work of producers, record labels, technicians and other associated career roles. • Development of instrumental skills as a soloist and as part of an ensemble with reference to the work of session musicians and live artists. • Produce a sequenced performance of a track using computer software working as a producer.
Term 3	Band Skills • How is a pop song built? • What are the different layers of a pop song? • Chords and riffs.	Creating Your Own Music • How to create music using Garageband/Cubase software. • Focus on structure, sonority, texture, chords and riffs.	The Music Industry: Business • Study of the careers which contribute to the business side of the music industry, eg.

	• Keyboard and ukulele performance technique. • Performing as a band: ensemble skills.	• Composition project.	Marketing, A&R, events and venue management, etc. • Remixing a track and planning and performing in a music festival. • Consolidation of all music skills
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Key Stage 4 Music

From Years 9-11, pupils have the opportunity to study Music at KS4 level. The following courses are available for each year group from the beginning of the academic year 2024-25:

Year 10 and 11: EDUQAS GCSE Music or Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/music-practice-2022.html>

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.

Peripatetic Music Tuition

One-to-one and small group instrumental tuition is available at Castleford Academy on the following instruments:

Drums

Piano

Brass

Woodwind

Voice

Guitar

Strings

All peripatetic music tuition is funded by the academy. Pupils must enter a contract to commit attending these lessons so that the programme can reach it's full potential and give this opportunity to pupils who work hard and aspire to be great musicians.

After School Clubs

GCSE Support with Ms Buckingham

School of Rock with Ms Buckingham and Mrs Moran

Stage Band with Mr Hallas, Ms Buckingham and Mrs Moran

The practice rooms are bookable during some lunchtimes and after school. Please see Ms Buckingham or Miss Moran about signing up for these.

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.

The Music Department has recently seen a change in staffing at Castleford Academy, so plans for developing co-curricular provision and providing musical experiences outwith curriculum are still in the pipeline. To start with though, pupils will have the opportunity to audition for a part in the school musical taking place in February (*The Adams Family*). These auditions are open to any student who aspires to be on the stage.

Next year (2026-27), all of our Year 9 cohort will have the opportunity to work in partnership with Northern Ballet. This is intended to expose pupils to real-life industry experience and develop their cultural capital through knowledge and understanding of the performing arts industry. This will take place in the form of workshops in school for all and a trip to see a live performance from the company for a smaller group.

Students have the opportunity to make their own bands and rehearse for concerts and shows, with a Christmas Showcase of pupils performance and a music festival to be held in the summer term.

It is our intention that a musical experience, focusing particularly on developing aspirations and opportunity for pupil premium pupils, will be planned in the next academic year.

In the future

At Castleford Academy, we intend to continue to grow, develop and embed our knowledge-rich Music curriculum. This in turn will hopefully result in growth of numbers at GCSE and increased participation in co-curricular activities around the department.

By setting high expectations, we hope to embed a strong ethos of hard work and musicianship, including increased attendance at the free instrumental lessons we provide with specialist peripatetic tutors.

Future projects will look at increasing the opportunities for pupils to experience more music from external providers and be inspired themselves to take part in more co-curricular clubs and concert which we hope to develop the offer of over the coming years.