Music development plan summary: West Bromwich Collegiate Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Miss Samantha Chater
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Mary Henderson
Name of local music hub	Black Country Music Hub (SIPS)

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.

At West Bromwich Collegiate Academy, our vision is for every student to experience the enjoyment, creativity and sense of belonging that music can provide. Through an inclusive and ambitious curriculum, high-quality instrumental and vocal tuition, diverse ensembles and memorable performance opportunities, we aim to develop confident musicians, broaden cultural horizons and establish music as a vibrant and valued part of Academy life.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is based on the Model Music Curriculum, taking into consideration that pupils experience music on a rotation at this current time, which is currently under discussion moving forwards. In Key Stage 3 pupils study a variety of music's, from Jazz and Blues to Video Game Music and Baroque to contemporary. Pupils study music on a rotation basis, focusing on one hour per week over two terms.

Key Stage 4 follow either the Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice or OCR GCSE Music, depending upon their individual needs. Pupils study music for three hours per week during their Key Stage 4 music journey.

The Music curriculum can be viewed here: Music - West Bromwich Collegiate Academy

The Music department consists of one main teaching room, with two practice rooms attached and an external specialist building called 'the Music Hub'. The Music Hub can safely house a maximum of 16 pupils in three specialist sound proofed practice rooms. This enables a rehearsal environment for small ensembles and rock bands, in addition to peripatetic lessons taking place.

The Academy aims to:

- Provide a **high-quality and progressive curriculum** that develops students' practical, creative, listening and musical understanding.
- Ensure students can learn to **sing and play a wide range of instruments**, including classical, contemporary and culturally diverse instruments.
- Remove financial barriers through **subsidised tuition, instrument loans and targeted support**.
- Create clear pathways from classroom learning into **instrumental tuition, choirs, bands, ensembles, qualifications and leadership opportunities**.
- Enable students to perform regularly through concerts, open-mic events, productions, festivals and external venues.
- Broaden students' cultural experiences through live performances, trips and partnerships with organisations such as **SIPS, the Black Country Music Hub, MusicMark, Music First and Birmingham Hippodrome (Musical Theatre only)**.
- Develop confidence, creativity, teamwork, discipline and a lifelong appreciation of music.
- Identify and nurture musical ability while maintaining opportunities that are **open and accessible to all students**.

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.

Instrumental and vocal tuition

WBCA works in partnership with **SIPS Education which is part of the wider Black Country Music Hub** to provide specialist instrumental and vocal tuition. Our offer includes:

- **Brass:** trumpet, cornet, trombone, tenor horn, baritone, euphonium and tuba

- **Woodwind:** flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe and bassoon
- **Strings:** violin, viola, cello and double bass
- **Contemporary instruments:** drum kit, guitar, bass guitar, keyboard and piano
- **Voice:** contemporary vocals and Indian vocals
- **Traditional instruments:** dhol, tabla and harmonium

Music tuition takes the form of students receiving either a **shared or individual 20-minute weekly lesson across 38 teaching weeks**, including:

- The loan of an instrument for home practice where appropriate
- Preparation for Academy performances and music examinations
- Access to SIPS ensembles and performances at no additional cost, and in some cases residential events at an additional charge
- Trial lessons for students considering a new instrument/voice

Charges and financial support

- Instrumental and vocal lessons cost **£9 per lesson**
- Students eligible for Pupil Premium funding pay a subsidised contribution of **£2 per lesson**
- Key Stage 4 Music students receive **one set of instrumental or vocal lessons free of charge**
- WBCA contribute financially to 15 hours of instrumental/vocal tuition

Students receiving free or subsidised tuition are expected to participate in an appropriate Academy ensemble or performance group where possible, to develop their performing ability and musicianship.

The following Music Ensembles and Clubs are available on a weekly basis during term time at no additional cost:

- **Concert Band** for brass, flute and clarinet players
- **Choir**, open to all students, with separate lunchtime sessions for different year groups
- **Music Hub rehearsals**, open to all
- **Music Mentors/Music Hub**, providing opportunities for students to support and lead musical activity
- **Function Band**, for more able musicians who can read notation and perform at grade 4 level
- **Senior Choir**, for more experienced vocalists, creating opportunities for greater harmonic challenges and therefore more complex vocal development and develop pieces and harmonic challenges
- **Key Stage 4 GCSE/BTEC Music coursework support**

- **Theatre School**, combining music, drama and performance in preparation for Academy productions

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 are provided with opportunities to perform both within the Academy and at external venues. These experiences include

- Academy concerts and performances
- Open Mic Nights
- School productions and the Christmas show
- Theatre School performances developed through the Birmingham Hippodrome partnership, in December and July
- Concert and performance trips
- A Key Stage 4 Music visit to Symphony Hall
- Y7 visits to Symphony Hall
- Performance opportunities linked to festivals and Birmingham Hippodrome events
- Participation in Trust-wide events and competitions
- Musician experiences in assemblies
- Careers in Music events

Theatre School performances: tickets are priced at £6 for adults and £3 for concessions, purchased from the Seaty website.

In the future

The music curriculum is reviewed annually and updated based on trends and changing student interests.

We aim to continue to grow the enjoyment and aptitude of students for music, and for the number of ensembles offered to grow. We aim to continue to provide opportunities for students to attend live music performances, and experience careers encounters with musicians. We aim to expand our music curriculum offer.

We are always seeking more opportunities for students to work with outside agencies and ex-students to consider careers in the music industry.

Further information (optional)

The Department for Education publishes a guide for parents and young people on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

SIPS Education, now part of the Black Country Music Hub, work with us to provide our instrumental tuition and commit to strengthening their own provision, specifying three areas of focus:

- High-quality delivery of services including lessons, ensemble rehearsals, and performance opportunities
- Strategic networking and professional development
- Enhanced opportunities for pupils to perform in high-quality venues and engage with the arts in new settings

Information regarding the services offered by the Black Country Music Hub can be found here: Music HUB - SIPS Education