

Music development plan summary: Beaumont School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Hannah Morgan
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jonathan Mountstevens
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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

Information about the time allocated to music at different Key Stages can be found on the [Curriculum Overview](#) page of the website. Music is taught weekly throughout the year in discrete, timetabled lessons which form part of the curricular entitlement for every student. The subject is also offered to all students as a GCSE and A Level option.

At Key Stage 3 students explore the interrelated skills of performance, composing and listening, studying a variety of musical styles and traditions. They learn about a range of 'world musics', as well as both traditional and contemporary approaches to 'classical' music-making. Students are taught basic music theory so that they have the tools they need to continue with music beyond Key Stage 3. Emphasis is strongly placed on practical music-making, with many opportunities for students to sing, play and compose with others. Music technology plays an important role in our Key Stage 3 curriculum. Over three years, students develop a strong musical identity, and form an appreciation of music in all its many forms.

Summary of Key Stage 3 curriculum content:

Year 7

- West African Djembe Drumming
- Beethoven: Ode to Joy
- Classical Music in Pop
- Programme Music
- Blues and Boogie Woogie

Year 8

- Gaming Music
- Reggae
- Protest Songs
- Minimalism
- Samba

Year 9

- Lo-Fi Beats
- Music in the Media
- World Tour
- Film Music

At Key Stage 4 students work towards the OCR GCSE qualification, which comprises 40% listening and appraisal, 30% performance and 30% composition. Students may use a range of software with which to compose and are supported with their performance through regular ensemble classes.

The course is based on five Areas of Study which build on the topics and knowledge covered in Years 7 – 9:

- My Music
- The Concerto through time
- Rhythms of the World
- Conventions of Pop
- Film Music

In the Sixth Form, students follow the OCR specification for A Level Music.

The OCR syllabus is a demanding yet rewarding course that covers a wide range of music, through the study of a variety of works. Students engage with external factors that affect the production and consumption of music, developing knowledge and understanding historical and social factors surrounding great musical compositions.

They perform and compose in styles that suit their individual musical identities.

The course is 60% coursework, comprising a performance recital and two composition tasks completed across the two years of study. The remaining 40% is a listening exam that covers the musical styles taught throughout the course.

There is further information about the Music curriculum on our [website](#).

Part B: Extra-Curricular Music

Beaumont offers an extremely wide range of opportunities outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands.

Beaumont hosts lessons from 14 instrumental staff from Hertfordshire Music Service. Lessons are offered on a wide range of instruments and students can participate in group lessons or individual, 1:1 tuition.

The Music Department has a strong tradition of extra-curricular provision. The following ensembles are offered each week before, during or after the school day:

- Brass Ensemble
- Percussion Ensemble
- Performance Practice Class
- Guitar and Ukulele Ensemble
- Flute Ensemble
- Clarinet Club
- Recorder Consort
- Barbershop
- Concert Band
- Music Clinic
- Jazz Band
- Kaboomwhackers
- Chamber Choir
- Choir
- String Orchestra
- Band Practice
- Orchestra
- Summer Samba
- Piano Duets
- Piano Trio

It is not a requirement for students to be in receipt of additional music tuition in order to participate. The majority of music clubs are open to all students of all abilities although places are auditioned on a yearly basis for Chamber Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Band and Barbershop. Some students also choose to form their own ensembles and practice rooms are made available for them to rehearse. All groups who have rehearsed weekly are invited to participate in end-of-term concerts.

Beaumont also runs an instrument loan scheme which enables students to borrow a school instrument, free of charge. All students receiving instrumental lessons or

attending extra-curricular music clubs are welcome to make use of the school instrument storage facilities within the Music Department.

The Music Department values the commitment of students to extra-curricular clubs and rewards dedication and reliability with the following awards which are presented during the Summer term.

- KS3 Bronze, Silver and Gold awards
- KS4 Ensemble Awards Levels 1 and 2
- KS5 Ensemble Awards Levels 3 and 4

Soloists and smaller ensembles are offered opportunities to perform in tea-time concerts at Beaumont as well as lunchtime recitals at St Peter's Church, local village festivals and care homes. Larger ensembles perform in popular, termly internal and external concerts. Beaumont musicians also participate in the [Herts Music Service](#) Gala at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

Some students receive individual or group tuition from staff at [Herts Music Service](#) .

Instruments include:

- Woodwind: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone
- Brass: Trumpet, Trombone, Cornet, French horn, Tuba, Flugel horn
- Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double bass, Acoustic/Electric guitar, Bass guitar
- Percussion and drum kit
- Piano and keyboard
- Voice

Families may apply to Herts Music Service for subsidies on fees or receive an instrument on loan from the music service. Further information is provided on the music service website. The music service also offers a range of [ensembles](#) which students may join. Membership fees are provided on the HMS website.

Part C: Musical Experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise:

- Performances in assembly
- Winter Concert (two performances)
- Spring Concert at St Paul's Church
- School musicals: collaboration with Drama department.
- Lunchtime recitals at St Peter's Church and St Albans Cathedral
- Music in the community: Orchard Nursing Home, Sandridge Silver Threads, Wheathampstead Village Day, Samba performances on Sports Day and the Beaumont Colour Run, 'Light up a Life' service at St Alban's Cathedral, Carolling in St Albans City Centre
- Teatime concerts

- Cross-curricular (Drama) trips to see musicals in the West End

Students from all year groups may be involved with extra-curricular performances. Soloists and small ensembles are selected to perform at lunchtime recitals at St Peter's Church. Pop/rock bands, soloists and small ensembles are invited to perform for the teatime concerts. Every ensemble is invited to perform for the whole-school concerts at Beaumont and St Paul's Church. Every student in Year 7 is invited to sing in the Year 7 choir, alongside the school choir and orchestra, for the Winter Concert, having studied the music in their first term of Music lessons.

Many students also participate in ensembles organised by Hertfordshire Music Service.

In the future

In 2025, the Music Department is aiming to introduce:

- Trips to orchestral concerts
- Opportunities for Beaumont students to participate in and lead outreach in local primary schools
- Collaborative concerts with local primary schools