

Music Development Plan Summary Maidstone Grammar School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	J Bourne
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	G Brooks / J Hanratty
Name of local music hub	Kent Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Andrew Parry Music

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.

In Year 7 and 8, students have one music lesson every fortnight during which they develop their performing, composing and listening skills through an array of musical genres, instruments and ensembles. Every student will gain performing skills in drumming, ukulele, piano and guitar such as accuracy, fluency and timing. Within the study of each instrument, students gain knowledge of basic music theory such as rhythmic and treble clef notation, dynamics, tempo and texture.

In Year 9 students have chosen Edexcel GCSE music and will focus on more advanced music theory and will be gain analytical listening skills based around the musical elements. Students will also improve their performing skills on their chosen instrument in solo and ensemble situations. Students will also develop their knowledge and skill in composing pop music based composing tasks. These skills are developed during their 4 lessons per fortnight. The uptake is good and in line with the national average of 7%.

In Year 10 student students build on their listening and analytical skills and analyse six of the eight set works grouped in areas of study. Students apply some of this fundamental knowledge in depth by completing a series of compositional tasks based

on pop and film music, whereby a wealth of instrumentation and orchestration is practised.

In Year 11, students complete the analysis of the of the set works and students complete the NEA required.

Year 12 and 13 musicians have the opportunity to choose AQA A Level Music to further develop their solo performance skills to an advanced standard. Students also practise more compositional techniques such as 4-part harmony, writing for full orchestra and using advanced chord and melodic devices. Students analyse in great depth baroque concertos, romantic piano music, pop music by legendary artists and film music by legendary film composers. These skills are developed during their 8 lessons per fortnight. The uptake is good and is consistently higher than the national average.

In Year 12 and 13 students can choose to study Edexcel Music Technology. Students study, evaluate and practise recording techniques throughout history. Students also have the opportunity to create unique soundscapes using sound design techniques based upon sound synthesis and sound sampling. The dynamic of the group is fluid as Year 12 and 13 are currently taught as one group and are taught 9 lessons per fortnight. The subject continues to be uniquely offered by MGS and numbers are consistently similar to that of A Level Music.

The link below outlines how we have sequenced knowledge and skills in each academic year: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/academic/subjects/music/>

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.

At Maidstone Grammar School, there are currently four main ensembles that students are welcome to join. There are currently approximately 50 students who regularly participate in these ensembles. These are:

- The MGS Orchestra, which is open to all String, Brass, Woodwind and Percussion players.
- The MGS Big Band, which is an invite/audition-based ensemble.
- The MGS Show Choir, which is open to all students.

For students who play pop/rock-based instruments just as drums, guitar and piano, there is the opportunity to form a student led band and perform at school events such as Live @ Lunch and performance evenings known as Showcases.

Maidstone Grammar School also regularly puts on an annual musical where students are invited to audition to play in the Musical Pit Band. The cast of the show take part in an audition process.

There are currently over 100 students having instrumental lessons at Maidstone Grammar School. Every student is offered the opportunity to learn from professional peripatetic staff in the following:

- Drum Kit
- Electric & Acoustic Guitar
- Piano
- Flute
- Clarinet
- Alto Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone

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.

Maidstone Grammar School puts on three Showcases per year. These showcases usually consist of an item from each of the school ensembles, one or two solo items and a series of drama extracts. On occasion the drama extracts are replaced with a larger extract from a play.

Maidstone Grammar School also puts on an annual Christmas Celebration Event which includes items from the MGS Show Choir, MGS Concert Band, MGS Strings and several festive readings. The MGS Big Band also take part in the festive celebrations

and host a Christmas Performance to students and staff during a lunchtime on the annual Christmas Jumper Day.

Maidstone Grammar School aims to put on an annual Musical which is often the highlight of the year. These shows are of a high quality and have included Little Shop of Horrors, Shrek and The Wedding Singer in recent years. The show is performed by students who are auditioned due to the difficulty of the parts.

During the 2023-24 academic year, 'Live @ Lunch' was introduced to offer student led bands to experience playing in front of an audience in a safe space. The event ran well at the start of year and gathered momentum leading up the Christmas but has since struggled to maintain consistency due to examinations.

In terms of trips, students who choose to take GCSE music are offered the opportunity to see 'Wicked!' and other related trips to enhance their studies of the Edexcel set work.

In the future

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

The goals for the subsequent years are:

Curriculum:

- To include more opportunities for low stake ensemble playing in KS3.

Beyond the Classroom:

- To fully establish 'Live @ Lunch' for student led bands to experience playing in front of an audience in a safe space.

Community & Partnership:

- To raise the awareness of local and national opportunities to students for them to experience music in the wider community.

Leadership & Management:

- More refined CPD from the Music Lead to Non Specialist Teaching Staff regarding Year 7 and 8 curriculum.