



Shire Oak Academy Music Development Plan Summary 2024-2025

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Overview

Below is an overview that outlines some of the key information regarding music at Shire Oak Academy:

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	Academic Year 2024 – 2025
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	Termly
Name of the academy subject leader for music	Adam Musa
Name of Faculty Lead and SLT member with responsibility for music	Hannah Griffiths- Deputy Head (overseas the Creative Arts Faculty) Emma Collis- Faculty Leader
Name of Local Music Hub	Walsall Music Education Hub

Part A: Music Curriculum at Shire Oak Academy

Time allocated

At Shire Oak we follow a two-week timetable with 60 minute lessons, and so the time allocated for each subject is **per fortnight**.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
2 x 60 minutes	2 x 60 minutes	1 x 60 minutes	5 x 60 minutes	6 x 60 minutes

This section details the content taught during lesson time, the duration dedicated to music lessons, and the music qualifications and awards that pupils can attain while studying Music at Shire Oak Academy.

On the Shire Oak Academy website, there is a curriculum overview as well as details on what extra curricular activities we offer students at the academy.

The Music Curriculum at Shire Oak academy follows the key elements set out in the Model Music Curriculum with a focus on Performing, Composing and Listening. The foundations of these key skills are woven into all units across Key Stage 3 and 4.

Key Stage 3 overview

Year 7					
<u>Introduction to Music Theory and Keyboards</u>	<u>Instruments of the Orchestra</u>	<u>Ukuleles</u>	<u>Rounds</u>	<u>Graphic scores</u>	<u>Samba</u>
Pupils will study the foundations of music theory including standard notation and will explore basic keyboard technique.	Pupils will learn about the make-up of an orchestra and will be taught about the four main Instrument family groups.	Pupils will learn how to play the ukulele starting with basic plucking exercises before moving on to chord strumming and performing as a small ensemble.	Pupils will develop composition skills in this unit and will use subject specific software to notate their music.	Pupils will explore graphic scores in this unit and will be given the opportunity to compose their own soundscape using a selection of different instruments.	Pupils will explore the origins of South American percussion music and through practical exploration will perform a structured piece of music.

Year 8					
Keyboard Skills 2- 4 chords	Blues	Popular music development.	African Drumming	Music sequencing- Bandlab	
Pupils will develop their skills learnt throughout the year and will be taught how to perform using more advanced keyboard techniques.	Pupils will learn about the history of the Blues and its significance in Western Music. This will lead onto a performance of a traditional blues piece.	Pupils will learn how music from the Blues era developed into Rock and Roll. Pupils will learn and perform a popular song from the Beatles.	Pupils will learn how to play the djembe drum and will compose their own cyclic composition in a small group.	Pupils will be taught how to use BandLab and will sequence their own soundtrack using prerecorded loops and samples.	New topic to be developed- September 2024

Year 9		
Horror soundtrack composition	Reggae	Popular Song
Pupils will compose a short composition to a horror soundtrack using various musical elements instruments and effects.	Pupils will learn about the foundations of Reggae music, it's significance in Western Popular music and will perform a well known song by Bob Marley.	Pupils will learn about the development of popular music from 1990 to present day and will finish KS3 music with a performance of a well known pop piece using a variety of musical instruments.

Year 7

In year 7 we begin by building on the foundations of pupils musical understanding taught in primary school. We have a particular strong focus on the key musical elements and build these into the topics taught throughout the year.

In the first term we look at building keyboard technique incorporating practical tasks into lessons as well as musical theory and understanding.

We then develop pupils listening skills by studying instruments of the orchestra in which pupils are taught to identify specific instrument groups as well as the sound qualities of each family.

In the Spring term we introduce pupils to the Ukulele, focusing on basic plucking technique as well as chords and strumming patterns. This leads to an assessment either individually or as part of a small ensemble.

In the third term we focus particularly on composition skills which allows the pupils to create their own music in a variety of styles. We look at rounds and graphic scores as the basis for introducing pupils to composition.

Year 8

In the Autumn term in Year 8 we introduce pupils to chords on the keyboards and pupils are taught how the use of harmony in music is effective. This leads onto an assessment in which pupils build on the skills first taught in Year 7. Pupils study the effectiveness of the 4 chord trick and are given the opportunity to perform a number of pieces in this style.

In the Spring term pupils begin an extended topic on the development of western Pop music. They first look at the foundations of the Blues and its impact on the development of popular music. Pupils then study Rock and Roll and then finishing with BritPop. In these topics pupils are assessed on their ability to perform in a number of styles using a variety of instruments.

In the Summer term pupils are taught how to use subject specific music technology- Bandlab Education. The pupils are taught how to use loops and patches to create their own composition using specific software techniques.

Year 9

In year 9 pupils study three main topics due to fortnightly lessons. The topics build on the key principles taught in year 7 and 8 with the focus being primarily on Performance and Composition.

In the Autumn term pupils work on producing a horror soundtrack using a variety of instruments and effects. They are given a horror storyboard and must perform their composition in real time.

In the Spring term pupils look at Reggae music and study about the foundations of this style and its impact on Western Pop music. Pupils are assessed on a performance of a well known Reggae song by Bob Marley.

In the final term of Ks3 pupils look at Popular Song and are encouraged to work as an ensemble to further develop their performance skills. The student's are given a choice of pieces to choose from and are assessed on their group performance of it.

Year 10 & Year 11

In Years 10 and 11, we students undertake the GCSE Eduqas specification. The course builds on the topics studied across the whole of Key Stage 3 with a focus on Performance, Composition and Listening and Appraising. The course layout is as follows.

Performance (30%)

Over the two year qualification, pupil's must submit 2 performances- one solo and one ensemble. The pupils are encouraged to develop their knowledge and understanding of music through performing.

To be able to access full marks the performance must be equivalent to Grade 3 standard. Both performances are externally assessed by the exam board.

Composition (30%)

Over the two year qualification pupils must submit two composition in which they are graded on their creative ability. Pupils are required to create and develop musical ideas in relation to a given and chosen briefs. We use subject specific software to notate their two compositions and these are externally assessed by the exam board.

Listening and Appraising Exam (40%)

At the end of the course the students undertake a listening exam in which they are tested on four Areas of Study. The pupils are examined on their musical understanding of various styles and genres and are expected to respond on their knowledge and understanding of the musical elements. The four areas of study that the pupils are tested on are as follows.

Area of Study 1- Musical Forms and Devices

Area of Study 2- Music for Ensemble

Area of Study 3- Film Music

Area of Study 4- Popular Music

The exam in 1 hour 15 minutes in length and is externally marked by the exam board.

Links to Local Music Hub

At Shire Oak Academy we have close links with Walsall Music Education Hub and we directly employ some of their staff as our internal peripatetic teachers. We closely collaborate with the hub and we have a number of our students who partake in extra curricular activities throughout the week on various evenings. The hub offer a number of performance opportunities throughout the year in which ourselves and other local secondary schools participate in.

Part B: Co-curricular Music

At Shire Oak Academy pupils have access to a number of opportunities to rehearse, create and perform music. This is through a variety of ensemble or instrumental groups, as well as co-curricular clubs that allow students to make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

Instrumental & Vocal Groups & Clubs

Shire Oak Academy offers a range of instrumental and vocal groups as well as clubs that are offered free of charge. These are open to all students across all year groups. Rehearsals and clubs take place in specialist music areas such as the music department, the peripatetic instrumental rooms, or the main hall where appropriate.

School production

Rehearsals for the annual school production (see part C for more information) take place on various times throughout the week.

Rock Bands

Students have the opportunity to form their own bands with peers, supported by specialist teacher guidance. Practice room space is made available to facilitate the development of their ensemble, instrumental, and vocal skills. This structured environment encourages students to refine their musical abilities and collaborate effectively, preparing them for performances throughout the academic year.

Choir

Our choir rehearsals run weekly after school and are led by our visiting singing teacher. Pupils are taught songs in a number of different styles and work towards performance in our two annual concerts as well as the school production. Pupils work on singing technique, projection as well as the ability to sing in harmony.

Lunch clubs

With the extension of the academy day, from September 2024 we are able to run lunchtime clubs. Pupils can sign up to a number of teacher led sessions on various days of the week and using the space in the department will be able to rehearse either individually or as a group.

Peripatetic Offer

At Shire Oak Academy we offer peripatetic music lessons delivered by specialist instrumental teachers. Our visiting teachers deliver personalized tuition on separate days throughout the school week. Pupils are encouraged to sign up for lessons throughout the academic year and at the time of writing this development plan we have close to 100 pupils receiving Instrumental/Vocal lessons.

A number of our student's are working towards Graded examinations in the following disciplines:

- **Piano and Keyboard:** Students learn a variety of styles and lessons focus on playing technique as well as musical theory.
- **Guitar:** Acoustic, electric, bass guitar and Ukulele lessons are available, covering a wide range of genres from classical to rock.
- **Brass:** Trumpet, trombone, and baritone/euphonium focusing on general playing technique and musical theory.
- **Woodwind:** Saxophone, flute, oboe, with a focus on embouchure, playing technique and general musical theory.
- **Percussion:** Drum kit lessons cover rhythm, coordination, and reading percussion notation.
- **Voice:** Vocal lessons are tailored to individual student needs, including classical, pop, and musical theatre techniques.

Charging

For all pupils wishing to receive Vocal/Instrumental lessons there is a standard charge of £180 which covers the fees for a full academic year. Parents/Carers can choose to pay the fee in three termly installments of £60.

Over the full academic year pupils receive 35 weekly lessons which last a duration of 20 minutes.

Pupils are placed on a rota and attend their lesson at a different time each week to minimise disruption to their school curriculum.

Free lessons

All pupil premium student's receive free lessons. This is fully funded by the pupil premium budget.

From September 2024 the academy will be subsidising part of the cost for pupils who are studying GCSE Music.

Instrument Hire

We have a limited number of Instruments that can be hired through the academy. Parents/carers must fill in the relevant hire form and adhere to the terms and conditions.

Application

Parents or carers interested in enrolling their child in peripatetic music lessons should fill in the relevant application and adhere to the terms and conditions. At present we use a paper copy of the form, however from September 2024 the form will be digital and will be accessible via the school website.

Part C: Musical Experiences

This section covers additional musical events and opportunities that we offer for pupils at Shire Oak Academy.

Annual school show

Students across all year groups are encouraged to participate in our annual school production. Rehearsals take place after school every Monday and Tuesday culminating in a final performance to a paying audience over four nights in the Spring term. The school shows have been very well received post COVID and showcase the exceptional ability and talent of our students at Shire Oak Academy.

Previous and upcoming shows: (post COVID)

2022- Shrek the Musical

2023- School Of Rock

2024- Sister Act the Musical

2025- Chicago: High School Edition

Christmas Concert/Summer Concert

Our annual two annual concerts allows pupils to showcase their talents to an invited audience. From instrumental soloists, singers and dancers pupils from all year groups are invited to perform in the concert. In the build up to the concerts, rehearsals take place on select days after school culminating in one evening performance.

Mercian Trust (MAT) Festival

Debutising in 2024 the MAT festival brings together pupils from all 9 schools that are part of the Mercian Trust. Each school is given a performance slot and given time to practice and prepare their chosen pieces. This culminates in a large scale performance at an external venue. The 2024 concert was a huge success for all schools involved and will run annually.

Pupils can rehearse after school and from September 2024 the opportunity to attend lunchtime clubs will also be an additional option for the pupils.

Part D- In the future

- Looking to expand the curriculum time for Y9 so that they are given weekly hourly lessons so that it is line with Year 7 and Year 8.
- Giving opportunities for our show ensemble to perform in assemblies to encourage other pupils to participate.
- Expanding our instrumental offer to include String tuition/
- Offering whole class instrumental workshops to high ability groups initially.