# SHIRELAND COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

# MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

## OVERVIEW

| | |
|---|---|
| Academic year the plan covers | 2026/2027 |
| School Music Lead | Lucy Laing |
| Local Music Hub | SIPS (Sandwell Instrumental Peripatetic service) |
| Date plan published | September 2026 |
| Date Plan will be reviewed | July 2027 |

## SECTION A: CURRICULUM

Curriculum music is taught on a rotation in KS3, for 1 hour per week and students participate in 2 x 9/10 week projects throughout the year. The curriculum is broad and varied and allows students to explore a wide variety of genres throughout years 7-9. During their KS3 lessons, students will participate in four main areas of music, as specified in the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021), Performing, Composing, Listening and Singing. Students will learn to play Keyboard, Ukulele, Boom Whackers and use their voices. They will use GarageBand software to develop DAW skills and will develop singing skills.

In year 7 students will learn music through the following 6 projects:

1. Welcome to Music – An introduction to music and the elements of music
2. Lean on Me – Soul and Motown – Developing Keyboard Skills
3. Charlie & the Chocolate Factory – DAW project - Composing a radio advert
4. Shotgun – Pop Music – Ukulele and singing

In year 8 students will learn music through the following projects:

1. Three Little Birds - Reggae (World Music) – DAW project, recreating the song on keyboard, ukulele and vocals. This develops performance skills on Keyboard, Ukulele and singing and allows them to learn and develop production skills on GarageBand.
2. Keyboard Skills – Various Genres – Keyboard skills are developed through a progressive keyboard booklet, which teaches the basics, progressing to more complex music, using both hands and reading sheet music.

In year 9 students will learn music through the following projects:

1. Monsters Inc. – DAW Film Music – Composing a soundtrack to a film clip (developing DAW skills from year 8)
2. Music Through Time – Classical, Romantic, Jazz, Blues, Rock & Roll and Hip Hop – Students learn key facts about the genre, instruments, music and listen to music from each genre. Following this, they learn how to play music from each of the genres.

In years 10 and 11, students study the Eduqas GCSE Music syllabus, which focusses on Performance, Composition and Music Appraising.

In years 12 and 13, students study the RSL Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners.

# SECTION B: EXTRA-CURRICULAR MUSIC

There is a wealth of opportunity for students wishing to develop their music skills outside of curriculum lessons, including instrumental lessons, ensembles and graded music performance and theory examinations.

Students wishing to learn an instrument can apply for a Shireland Music Scholarship. The music scholarships, which are provided in collaboration with SIPS, are awarded to all students who complete their application form and pass their 'trial' with their instrumental teacher. The trial is assessed on suitability for the instrument, dedication to practise, enthusiasm and attendance/punctuality to lessons. The lessons are paid for by the Academy in order to ensure that the opportunity is available to all students, who wish to learn an instrument. Students are given a loan instrument from SIPS as part of their scholarship. Lessons are offered in the following subjects:

- Keyboard/Piano
- Singing
- Upper Strings (Violin and Viola)
- Lower Strings (Cello and Double Bass)
- Brass
- Woodwind
- Drum Kit
- Guitar (inc Bass Guitar)
- Dhol

In addition, there are various ensembles available to students throughout the week. Students who participate in Scholarship lessons are expected to attend the relevant ensemble for their instrument, however most are open to all students. The ensembles available are:

- Wind Band – Open to all who play a Brass or Woodwind instrument
- KS3 Choir – Open to all in years 7-9
- KS3 Elite Choir – Selected students
- KS4/5 Choir – Open to all in years 10-13
- KS4/5 Elite Choir – Selected students

Outside of music ensembles, there are various other clubs that students can attend, giving them access to music making at various points throughout the week.

- Music Club – Open to all
- Theory Club – Students work through music theory grades, following the ABRSM Music theory syllabus, with the option to take the external ABRSM exams.
- KS3 Composition Club – Open to all who wish to develop DAW skills and create their own music.
- KS4 Composition Club – Open to all who wish to develop DAW skills and create their own music.
- Five dedicated music practise rooms available at break and lunch (subject to lessons) for students to complete individual or small group practise.

# SECTION C: MUSICAL EXPERIENCES

Throughout the year, there are various opportunities for students to participate in musical performances.

At the end of each term, we hold a Rewards Assembly, for each year group, where as part of this, there is a musical performance. This is often provided by the choir, but there is opportunity for any of our musical ensembles to be a part of these assemblies in the future.

We hold an annual Christmas celebration at the start of December, featuring various musical ensembles and performers, giving everyone the opportunity to get into the Christmas Spirit.

Each year, we hold the Music Showcase, which is an evening celebration of music, attended by parents, friends, staff and other students. This is run by the Year 12 music group, who complete the work as part of their course. This is usually featuring acts which have been selected to be in the showcase and auditions are open to anyone from years 7-13.

In addition, we hold an annual Music Scholarship Celebration. This gives all students who participate in the scholarship programme the opportunity to perform to a live audience and show what they have been learning in their instrumental/vocal lessons. The various musical ensembles we run at the academy also perform as part of this showcase. This is an evening performance, supported by the instrumental teachers from SIPS, and can be attended by anyone.

In November of each year, we hold the 6$^{th}$ Form Showcase, which is an evening celebration of our 6$^{th}$ form students in years 12 and 13. This is in collaboration with both the Dance and Drama departments and all KS5 students who study Music, Dance or Drama are a part of the showcase.

At both Open Evenings for potential year 7 and 12 students we feature musical ensembles. These ensembles can be found in the entrance to buildings and in the music department, so potential students (and parents) can enjoy our music groups as they tour the school.

Music performance features in our annual Awards Evening, which is a celebration of students' achievements in the last academic year. This is a prestigious event and performers work hard to prepare for this.

We work in collaboration with the Primary School (STP) and have taken both KS3 and KS4/5 choir to perform as part of their Christmas Fayre and Summer Fayre, even singing together with their Young Voices choir.

Students can audition to be a part of Theatre School, which is in collaboration with Birmingham Hippodrome. Students work on two productions per year: a pantomime at Christmas and a musical in the summer. This includes singing, dance and acting, so allows students to participate in all three disciplines.

All evening performance tickets are available to purchase via our Arbor system, however PP students, who are performing in the show, can have two complimentary tickets for each performance.

## SECTION D: THE FUTURE

In the future, we are looking to offer the Arts Award. This will allow students to develop not only their musical skills, but also their management skills, teaching skills and teambuilding.

We intend to develop the Wind Band, looking to include string players to create our first orchestra. As students' progress through the scholarship programme, this will become a natural development of the music provision.

We enter the UK British Schools Music Festival each year. With a Bronze, two Silvers and three Gold awards achieved over the last three years, it is our intention to enter again this year, once again featuring several of our ensembles, hoping to continue the success we have seen so far.

## SECTION E: FURTHER INFORMATION

As we are part of the Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust, we intend to continue working in collaboration with the other schools within our trust, including the Shireland CBSO school, where we have the opportunity to work with the CBSO to develop the experiences for our students.