



## Music Development Plan:

### King Edward VI School, Stratford-upon-Avon

#### Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	January 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	January 2026
Name of school Music lead	Mrs Debbie Madden
Name of local Music Hub	Heart of England Music

This summary explains how King Edward VI School delivers music education to students across three areas – Curriculum Music, Extracurricular Provision and Musical Experiences – and the changes that are planned for future years. This information aims to help students and parents understand what [The School](#) offers and who we work with to support our students’ music education.

#### Part A: Curriculum Music

Music is taught to students in Years 7 – 13 by specialist Music teachers:

**Year 7** – four 45-minute lessons per week

**Year 8** - three 45-minute lessons per fortnight

**Years 9, 10 & 11** – (GCSE Options subject, ABRSM Grade 5 Theory and AQA GCSE Music) – six 45-minute lessons per fortnight

**Years 12 & 13** – (A Level Options subject, AQA) – eleven 45-minute lessons per fortnight

**Year 12** – Sixth Form Enrichment (Music Technology) – two 45-minute lessons per fortnight

An overview of the curriculum for each Key Stage can be found here:

[Music - Academic Curriculum Content](#)

## Part B: Extracurricular Music

There are many opportunities for students to sing and play music outside of their curriculum lesson time. This section includes detail on choirs, ensembles and bands and also how students can make progress in Music beyond the core curriculum.

### Instrumental and Vocal Lessons

We have a team of nineteen Visiting Music Teachers (nine are employed via Warwickshire Music and ten are self-employed). They deliver tuition in the following:

- Strings (Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass)
- Woodwind (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon and Saxophone)
- Brass (Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba)
- Orchestral Percussion
- Classical Guitar, Electric Guitar and Bass Guitar
- Piano, Organ, Jazz Piano
- Voice

Weekly lessons are 25 minutes and cost £210/term. Teachers aim to deliver 30 lessons over the course of the academic year. Students in receipt of Pupil Premium funding are invited to contact the Headmaster's PA to request financial support with the cost of music lessons.

### Year 7 Scheme

All Year 7 students are offered the opportunity to study an instrument, free of charge, for their first term as part of the Year 7 Scheme. This is the School's tangible investment in the musical ethos of the School: all students can take part.

The following choices are available:

Strings	Woodwind	Brass
Viola	Oboe	Trumpet
'Cello	Clarinet	French horn
Double bass	Bassoon	Trombone
		Tuba

As well as their individual lesson, Year 7 students participate in the following weekly ensembles led by a specialist staff:

- Year 7 Brass
- Year 7 Clarinets and Saxophones
- Year 7 Flutes and Double Reeds (with Year 8s)
- Year 7 Guitars (with Year 8s)
- Year 7 Percussion (with Year 8 and 9s)

- Year 7 Strings

### **Extracurricular Music Activities**

We offer an extensive range of extracurricular activities in School. Students are encouraged to join ensembles for their age range with certain ensemble requiring a certain instrumental grade or equivalent.

### **Choral**

- Lower School Choir (Years 7 & 8)
- Middle School Choir (Years 9 - 11)
- Sixth Form Choir (Years 12 & 13)
- Chapel Choir (Years 7-13, auditioned)

In July 2024, we produced 'Voices Together' in conjunction with Chin Badger Media to highlight the choral music in School. This can be viewed [via this YouTube link](#).

### **Instrumental**

#### **Large Ensembles**

- Concert Band (Years 7-13, Grade 5+)
- String Orchestra (Years 7-13, Grade 5+)
- Orchestra (Years 7-13, Grade 5+)
- KES Sounds (2<sup>nd</sup> Orchestra, Years 7-10, Grades 2 - 4)

#### **Jazz**

- JazzSquad! (Years 8-10, Grade 2-4)
- KERBB - King Eddie's Revival Big Band (Years 9-13, Grade 5+)

#### **Small Ensembles**

- Piano Trio (selected students)
- King's Brass (Years 9-13, Grade 5+)
- GuitarKEstra (Years 9-13)
- Year 7 & 8 Guitars
- Saxophone Choir (Years 8-11, Grade 2+)
- Saxophone Quartet (selected students, Grade 6+)
- Year 8 & 9 Strings
- Piano Trio (selected students, Grade 7+)
- Indian Music Group (selected students)

#### **Bands**

- Year 9 Band
- Year 10 Band
- Sixth Form Band

## **Year 12**

Every year a significant number of students join the Sixth Form who are particularly attracted to the School due to the exceptional quality of the extra-curricular provision. There are many opportunities available within the Music department where students take a leading role, both musically and in a leadership capacity.

### **Student-led groups**

The Department has eight dedicated practice rooms as well as two classroom spaces which can be used for students to practice before School, at break and lunchtime, as well as after School, subject to these rooms not being used for teaching. Organ students have access to practise in the Guild Chapel.

## **Part C: Musical Experiences**

The Music Department provides a wide range of musical events and opportunities.

### **Full School Assembly**

A senior musician (usually Sixth Form) or ensemble performs in front of 900 students and staff at our weekly Full School Assembly.

### **Performances in School**

#### **Michaelmas Term:**

- Standards Evenings (Lower School, GCSE, Sixth Form)
- Speech Day (King's Brass and a senior chamber ensemble)
- Remembrance Service (buglers and soloists)
- Sixth Form Open Evening (KERBB)
- Michaelmas Concert (selected senior soloists and all senior ensembles)
- Christmas Concert (KES Sounds, Jazzsquad!, Year 9 Band, Saxophone Choir, Year 7&8 Guitars, soloists)

#### **Lent Term:**

- Jazz Night (Jazzsquad!, KERRB, Saxophone Quartet, soloists)
- House Music Competition (Big House Sing, Junior Competition, Senior Competition)
- Gala Concert (Senior House Music Competition soloist category finalists and all senior ensembles)

#### **Summer Term:**

- Year 7 Concert (all Year 7 students – selected soloists and all ensembles)
- Multicultural Evening (Indian Music Group, selected soloists)

- Spring Recital (KES Sounds, Jazzsquad!, Year 10 Band, Saxophone Choir, Year 7&8 Guitars, soloists)
- End of Year Concert (Year 13 soloists and all senior ensembles)

### **Performances Outside School**

- Chapel Choir trip to sing evensong at St Peter's College, Oxford
- Stratford Civic Remembrance Service (Bugler)
- Soundbite Concerts at Holy Trinity (November – senior chamber ensembles, March – A Level Recitals and June – Year 10 class)
- Band for School Production of *Love's Labour's Lost* (Ad hoc band for the Production)
- Stratford Rotary Club Christmas Lunch (King's Brass)
- Services of Nine Lessons and Carols (all Choirs at Holy Trinity Church and Guild Chapel)
- School Carol Services (all Choirs at Holy Trinity Church)
- Shakespeare Parade (King's Brass)
- Senior musicians support events in the community, e.g. Stratford Literary Festival, Stratford Music Festival

### **Workshops:**

- Sixth Form performance class with Lynn Arnold
- Folk Music/Improvisation with Marion Fleetwood
- Choirs with Ex Cathedra

Others will be arranged as opportunities arise throughout the year. We have strong connections with Ex Cathedra, Armonico Consort, Warwick Arts Centre, Longborough Opera, Chipping Campden Music Festival, Stratford Music Festival, St Peter's College, Oxford and the National Youth Choir.

### **Trips:**

Recent trips have included -

- Stratford Music Festival
- CBSO Schools Concert (all Year 8 students)
- RPO Concerts at Warwick Arts Centre
- Marriage of Figaro at Birmingham Hippodrome
- Music Tour to the Loire Valley

Trips are arranged as opportunities arise throughout the year.

### **European Tours:**

Every two years we organise a Music tour to Europe in conjunction with OneStage Travel.

2019 – Belgium; 2021 (post-pandemic) – Cambridge and Suffolk; 2023 – France and Germany (Highlights from this trip can be viewed [via this YouTube link](#)); 2025 - the Loire Valley, France. We typically take 40-50 students and perform three concerts.

### **Student involvement in external youth music projects**

Current students are involved in weekly lessons/rehearsals which include: Junior Department of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire; Junior Department of the Royal Academy of Music; Warwickshire Music; Armonico Consort; The Musical Box; Stratford Musical Theatre Group; various church choirs; various Indian music groups and many more.

Current students have been involved in holiday courses during the past year: National Youth Orchestra; NYO Inspire; National Youth Choir; ESO Youth; Rodolfus Foundation Choral Courses; National Youth Brass Band; English Symphony Orchestra and National Children's Orchestra.

## **Part D: In the Future**

The Music Department plans to maintain its aim of a large number of students performing at a high level and participating in a wide range of musical events and opportunities.

In the future, we plan to:

- have more space available for students to do individual practice as well as have opportunities for student-led music-making such as play piano duets, form bands and compose together
- organise a joint Jazz Night with musicians from Sevenoaks School, Kent
- develop our partnerships with the Music Departments of other BASS schools. We currently work with Bishop Wordsworth's, Salisbury; Bishop Vesey's, Sutton Coldfield; RGS High Wycombe as well as Watford Boys' Grammar School
- develop links with other colleagues in the Music Teachers Association