Music development plan summary:
Dixons City Academy – Bradford

This document is designed to give a summary of the high-quality music provision at this academy in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, considering the key features in the national plan for music education:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for Key Stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2027
Name of the academy music lead	Joshua Hart
Name of academy leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Ramender Crompton
Name of local music hub	Bradford Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Dixons Academies Trust - Director of Music, Tamsin Rafnsson

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students 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 students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students' 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 students can achieve.

- Students in Year 7 have 1 timetabled curriculum music lesson per week
- Students in Year 8 have 1 timetabled curriculum music lesson every other week, on a rotation with drama
- Students in Year 9, 10 and 11 have the option to study music at GCSE level (Edexcel specification)
- More details on the intentions of our curriculum and the skills and the curriculum overview can be found here: https://www.dixonsca.com/about/curriculum
- The curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum and is built on the four pillars of musical learning; understanding, skills, experiences and knowledge.
- Aligning with our trust's focus on the joy of learning we focus on high-quality teaching and excellent culture in lessons, opportunities for success and difficulty, underpinned by clear routines, behaviour and relationships. There are opportunities for students to celebrate, be recognised and make meaning of their experiences in music; for example, every lesson we award appreciation points for up to 5 students.

- Students explore performing, listening & appraising and composing during their music lessons and develop skills individually and as a team in group work.
- The curriculum incrementally builds so that each time a student comes back around to a skill, they should be developing and improving their skills in that specific area e.g. keyboard performance work.
- The curriculum is both accessible and challenging for all, so that every student can achieve their personal best under the expert guidance of a specialist teacher, supported by information from our Individual Needs department which helps us to adapt our teaching to meet the needs of every child.
- At Key Stage 3 students will sing and play a wide variety of instruments including keyboard, handheld percussion, tuned percussion (glockenspiels) and ukuleles. In addition during Year 8, they will get the chance to experience creating music using computer software in our music technology room.
- At Key Stage 4 students work towards the Edexcel GCSE music specification and study a variety of set works in preparation for the listening and appraising paper, prepare solo / ensemble performances on their chosen instrument and create compositions using specialist music software in a bespoke music technology suite. Lessons are practical but also cover all the knowledge and skills needed to understand the theory of music (reading scores and understanding musical symbols and key terminology), and identifying features of music through focused listening tasks.
- All teaching is highly responsive and adapted to the wide range of needs and abilities of students, including those who have entered the academy on a performing arts place.
- All lessons consider equity, diversity and inclusion; this includes choice of repertoire to cover a variety of genres, cultures and music from around the world, and watching to / listening to performances which aim to represent everyone from our diverse community (this is also enhanced by the additional free provision for selected students with Allstar, Bradford, please see below for more details).
- All students opting for music are encouraged and supported to take peripatetic lessons on their choice of instrument, and through this have the additional option of entering for external graded exams.

Part B: Extra-curriculum music

This is about opportunities for students to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how students can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

- In addition to the central curriculum lessons outlined above all students at the school have access to a wide range of peripatetic instrumental / vocal lessons which are taught on a 1:1 or paired basis for 20, 30, or 40-minutes dependent upon grade and experience.
- Students are guaranteed a minimum of 30 lessons across the year, with the possibility of having up to 33.
- We also have a stock of instruments that students can loan for free dependent upon availability as follows; violin, flute, clarinet, saxophone (including soprano, tenor and baritone), Eb horn, trumpet, trombone, glockenspiel, electric guitar, bass guitar (plus small practise amps).
- These lessons are charged as follows:

Student standard	Time allocated per week	Parental contribution per term
Beginner to Grade 3	Individual 20 minutes paired 20 minutes	£75.00 £47.00
Grade 4 & 5 or GCSE Music student	Individual 30 minutes	£88.00
Grade 6	Individual 40 minutes	£102.00
Grade 7 or 8	Individual 50 minutes	£110.00
Theory students	30-minute (group lesson)	£30.00

- For pupil premium and free school meal students where possible we try to support with free or subsidised lessons, and we can also agree weekly, or monthly payment plans via our parentpay system where this is needed.
- For students who have entered the academy on a Performing Arts place, we offer a free paired lesson on guitar, drumkit, or a woodwind / brass instrument, and a free instrument to practise on (subject to suitability and availability).
- Where no suitable pairing is available, we offer 10-minute individual lessons per week or a 20-minute individual lesson every other week, depending upon how this aligns with the peripatetic teacher's timetable allocation.
- All students studying music at GCSE level in Yrs 9-11 will be supported to access lessons on their chosen instrument / voice.
- The range of lessons offered are as follows; violin, electric and acoustic guitar, bass guitar, piano, keyboard, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet (and other brass), singing, drum kit and percussion.
- We also offer a variety of free extra-curricular music clubs as follows:

Day	Morning (8.15-8.45)	Lunchtime (12.50-1.20 or 1.20-1.50)	After school
Monday		String Group – A26	
Tuesday	Guitar Group – Practise Room 5		Concert Band - Theatre
Wednesday		Wind Group – A25	Music Theory Class – A25 Soul Band - Theatre
Thursday	Drumline – Practice Room 5	Samba Band – Drama Studio	
Friday	Pop Choir for KS3 and KS4 - A25	Choir – Theatre	Musical Theatre Group – A25 (or Drama Studio / Theatre)

- Anyone wishing to join a club should speak to their music teacher in the first instance as some, such as choir, have a waiting list dependent upon the space available in the current rehearsal room.
- Extra-curricular clubs are an excellent way for students to develop and progress on their chosen instrument and provide valuable social experiences as students from all year groups mix and enjoy their love of music making together.
- In addition, we liaise with Bradford Music & Arts Service to ensure students on their Furthering Talent / Connect Programmes (Young Sounds Connect) have access to lessons on the academy premises where possible and constantly look at eligibility for those who may benefit from this programme.
- All students having peripatetic lessons have opportunities to enter for a wide range of well recognised external examinations such as ABRSM, Trinity and Rockschool grade exams both theory and practical.
- In recent years we have entered students for live exams and video recorded exams, so students can discuss with their teacher which is best suited to their needs.
- Students wishing to practise their instruments outside of the academy day i.e. before or after school can make use of the 6 practice rooms, we have available and should speak to the Head of Music to agree this beforehand.
- Our students also benefit from additional free provision from Bradford Allstar, who work with nominated students on a weekly basis on performing, music technology (creating and mixing tracks) and DJ-ing skills; the students can be nominated by any member of staff across the academy who thinks that engagement in this programme will enrich their experience at school, develop new skills and enhance their love of music.
- We aim to increase the joy students gain from their music making through removing as many barriers as possible so that they can participate and explore their love of music both inside and outside of the academy.

Part C: Musical Events and Opportunities

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.

In 2026-27 the rehearsal schedule above will run every week, and most groups will get the opportunity to perform in at least one of the planned musical events this year:

- **Academy Open Evening** – Thurs 17 September. Students who wish to volunteer can perform or support with showing Year 6 around our music facilities and help them to play keyboard / ukulele or create a drum beat in our music technology room on music software.
- **Dixons Cup** – the music department encourages students to enter solo performance work to be considered for commendation and bronze, silver and gold awards as part of the Trust Wide Dixons Cup competition. These opportunities are offered at various points in the year – this year we hope to offer this during Cycle 2. Students participating in external extra-curricular events can also be eligible to collect participation points for their academy towards the final total at the end of the year.
- **Christmas Concert** – Tue 8 Dec (with some additional large-scale rehearsals to take place in the lead up to the event on the afternoon of Tues 24 Nov, and all day on Tues 1 Dec) in the Lord Kalms Theatre. This will involve most of the ensembles plus a mixture of solo and duet performances and will involve students from Year 7-11. Students wishing to participate should see the Head of Music.
- **'Night at the Musicals' Concert** – Fri 29 Jan (with an additional large-scale rehearsal to take place in the lead up to the event on the afternoon of Fri 22 Jan) in the Lord Kalms Theatre. This will involve a mixture of solo and duet performances and will involve students from Year 7-11. Students wishing to participate should see the Head of Music.
- **GCSE Year 11 Ensemble Performance Exams** (recordings in theatre) Mon 18 Jan 2027 (exact date tbc).
- **GCSE Year 11 Composition Day off timetable** – 16 December 2026.
- **Summer Concert** – Wed 7 July (with some additional large-scale rehearsals to take place in the lead up to the event on the afternoon of Tues 29 June, and all day on Tues 6 July) in the Lord Kalms Theatre. This will involve most of the ensembles plus a mixture of solo and duet performances and will involve students from Year 7-11. Students wishing to participate should see the Head of Music.
- **Collaborative Concert** – Wed 14 July – we hope to offer the opportunity for students Year 7 -11 to be part of a trust-wide performance which will take place at St George's Hall in Bradford during the Summer Term.
- **Bradford Schools Prom** – TBC – each year we usually apply for one of our ensembles to take part in the Bradford Schools Prom which takes place in March. Recent performances have seen our Saxophone Group and our Guitar Group perform to great acclaim!
- Tickets for all concerts and shows are available for any students and families at Dixons City Academy and from the wider community via Ticketsource; advertisements and links for tickets will appear on the academy website in the weeks prior to each event so that anyone who wishes to can come and be part of the audience.
- Tickets are usually priced at around £5.50 full price and £2.80 concession.
- In addition to the above planned events we are always liaising with Bradford Music & Arts Service and other local arts organisations to provide any other enrichment opportunities or trips for our students.

In the future

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

We are constantly trying to ensure we offer the best musical opportunities to our students. Please see below some of the things we are planning for this year and beyond to maintain and build on our current provision:

Curriculum

- Based on student feedback we have tried to ensure all students have access to an individual keyboard in lessons by purchasing some smaller keyboards that students can utilise at their desks.
- We are looking for ways to increase the provision of computer access within our music technology suite to allow every student to have an individual computer when we work on music software.

Outside the classroom

- We are exploring the provision of Ableton Live software to give students a headstart with upskilling themselves in using industry standard DAW software.
- We continue to review the opportunities of Music For Youth, whom we have engaged with in the past, to give our ensembles the chance to perform in exciting external venues https://www.mfy.org.uk/
- We continue to offer a wide variety of musical ensemble opportunities, including our Wind Ensemble, which is rehearsing weekly at lunchtime on Wednesdays – watch out for them performing in our Concerts this year!

Further information

Please find below some useful links which you may find helpful when considering your child's musical experiences inside and outside the academy:

Bradford Music & Arts Service - Bradford Music & Arts Service

Bradford Music Hub's Connect Programme Partner - Young Sounds Connect

Edexcel GCSE Music page - GCSE Music

The National Plan for Music Education – NPME

The Model Music Curriculum - MMC

The Department for Education publishes a guide for parents and young people on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

DfE enrichment framework (published June 2026) - The enrichment framework for schools and colleges - GOV.UK