

Music Development Plan Summary: Castle Mead Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/2027
Date this summary was published	September 27
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Sadie Baxter
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire Music Hub

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.

At Castle Mead Academy, our vision is to provide broad, varied and challenging curriculum of opportunities through outstanding Key Stage 3 and GCSE teaching and learning. During year 7 and 8 scholars are provided with one hour of classroom music per week and in year 9 they are rotated with other performing arts subjects throughout the year. Through this they are able to develop their **performance, composition and listening** skills, as well as giving scholars the opportunity to reflect on both their own and other's work. This prepares scholars well for the challenge of GCSE Music and beyond.

Once they have completed year KS3, scholars are given the opportunity to study music through the Edexcel GCSE Music Exam Board. There are five areas of study that the scholars can study which includes AoS1: Musical Forms and Devices, AoS2: Music for Ensemble, AoS3: Film Music, AoS4: Popular Music. This specification offers scholars the opportunity the opportunity to perform on their chosen instrument, compose freely and to a set brief, and sit a listening exam at the end of year 11.

To view the KS3 and KS4 Curriculum map, please use the link below.

[Music – Castle Mead Academy | TMET Leicester MAT](#)

Part B: Extra-Curricular and Castle Character Time

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.

There are several ensembles that take place each week including during the schools recreation time. This includes: Steel Pan Ensembles, Choir, String Ensemble and Samba Band. In addition, our Castle Character time aims enrich scholar's lives through our unique extra-curricular opportunity which is embedded in our school timetable. At Castle Mead we offer several experiences and opportunities including a chance to participate in our Castle Choir and Instrumental Ensembles. In turn students will reap the benefits of musicianship which include increased academic and social development, creativity, professionalism, confidence, teamwork and emotional development. By taking part in these musical opportunities and offering their commitment, scholars are offered priority with opportunities including performances and trips.

We offer our Music Scholarship as an opportunity for all scholars to have the opportunity to learn an instrument with a professional instrumental specialist. This particular opportunity is subsidised by the school and is prioritised to our pupil premium scholars. We offer a range of instruments including piano, strings, brass, woodwind, drum kit and voice and scholars can be assessed through the Associated Board Royal School of Music and Trinity Exam boards.

We ensure that our five music rehearsal rooms are used effectively for group and individual rehearsal time during classroom lessons, instrumental lessons and social times for scholars to rehearse independently. Scholars can use their music lunchtime passes to use the music rooms and rehearsal rooms independently during their own social time. They have access to a range of instruments to use during that time including pianos, guitars, drum kits, xylophones,

Part C: Musical Performance and 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.

Throughout the year we offer external opportunities that scholars from all years can take part in. This includes our Christmas Concert, an external Trust Wide Concert that takes place in the local St James the Greater Church in Leicester, an internal Easter Concert and a Summer Concert both jointly with our sister school, Brook Mead Academy. We also participate in the Music Hub's annual 'Big Sing' concert as part of the Leicestershire Music Hub Music Festival. This takes place during the Spring Term at Leicester's iconic music venue, De Monfort Hall. These opportunities are for those who commit to our music ensembles and music scholarships.

Annual whole school events are an opportunity for scholars who do not participate in school ensembles to audition and rehearse independently for an opportunity to perform. These performances are usually held in termly assemblies, our annual culture day and annual Castle Fest.

In The Future

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

In the future Castle Mead Academy is intending:

- To continue to enhance the curriculum at KS3. This includes developing new units for the year 9 curriculum.
- On broadening the number of extra-curricular opportunities for scholars including visiting performances such as theatre shows and concerts.
- To include lunch time concerts for those that wish to perform to their peers.
- To participate in additional trust wide performance opportunities and concerts.
- To hold GCSE performances for parents and carers.
- To attend workshops and seminars for GCSE scholars at the local independent school. Uppingham School has specialist equipment including a recording studio.

Further Information

Useful links:

- [Leicestershire Music - Leicestershire Music](#)