Music development plan summary:

Dixons Trinity 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	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the academy music lead	Daniel Gibson
Name of academy leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Deepak Kalia
Name of local music hub	Bradford Music & Arts Service
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 and 8 have two timetables music curriculum lessons a fortnight
- Students in Year 9 have one timetabled music curriculum lesson a fortnight
- Students in Year 10 and 11 have the option to study music at GCSE level (Eduqas specification)
- More details on the intentions of our curriculum and the skills and the curriculum overview can be found here: https://www.dixonsta.com/uploads/files/dixonsta/DTA-Curriculum-Overview-Music.pdf?v=1726354875
- The curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum and is built on the three core elements of music education: Performing, Composing, and Listening & appraising.
- 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.

- 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 round 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 is capable of achieving their personal best under the expert guidance of a specialist teacher, supported by information from our Mountain Rescue 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, untuned and tuned percussion (glockenspiels) and ukuleles. In addition, they will get the chance to experience creating using computer software.
- At Key Stage 4 students work towards the Eduqas 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 need to understand the theory of music (reading scores and understanding musical symbols and key terminology) and also 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 had previous music education and those who are just starting out.
- 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.
- All students opting for music are encouraged and supported to take peripatetic lessons on their choice of instrument for free, and through this have the additional option of entering for external graded exams.
- Students in younger years are encouraged to join peripatetic instrumental lessons for free and have the additional option of entering for external graded exams.

Part B: Co-curricular music

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.

- 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 20-40 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 practice amps).
- All instrumental lessons are free of charge for all students. We believe this is crucial for our families.
- All students studying music at BTEC/GCSE level in Yrs 9-11 will be supported to access lessons on their chosen instrument / voice.
- All students studying music at BTEC/GCSE level in Yrs 9-11 are encouraged to join intervention sessions after school and in the holidays.
- 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 (8.15-8.45am)	Rotating timetabled slot	After school
Monday	Choir		Beginner and advanced theory
Tuesday		Soul Band	Drumline
Wednesday	Samba Beginner guitar group	Rock band	Drumline
Thursday			Guitar Group
Friday			Pitch perfect harmony group

- Anyone wishing to start a club should speak to their music teacher in the first instance as some, such as samba, 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 also provide valuable social experiences as students from all year groups mix together and enjoy their love of music making together.
- 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 practise rooms we have available and should speak to the Head of Music to agree this beforehand.
- 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.
- Students in all year groups have the opportunity to be a house representative for music. This entails liaising with the wider house team for presenting culture champions during house morning meeting, working together to organise displays and departmental features to keep it current and relevant for our demographic, and working alongside staff members during showcases to ensure the smooth operation of events.

Part C: Musical 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.

In 2025-26 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:

- 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.
- Winter Showcase – Thursday 29th November 4:30pm (with some additional large scale rehearsals to take place in the lead up to the event). This will involve most of the ensembles plus a mixture of solo and duet performances and will involve students from Year 1-11. Students wishing to participate should see the Head of Music. This is a collaborative showcase with Dixons Music Primary
- GCSE Students Day/s of Timetable – Various dates leading to coursework deadlines
- Equalize Project – Students from KS3 and KS4 are invited to Dixons City Academy to take part in the Equalize project where a guest lecturer will be providing workshops for students with a music tech focus. 10th and 11th Feb
- Spring Showcase – Thursday 19th March 4:30pm. 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.
- Music examinations – Recorded throughout the year.
- Music For Youth festival – After successfully qualifying in Huddersfield last academic year and performing at Birmingham Symphony Hall, we are again applying for our performers to play at the Music for Youth Festival again this year. Date TBC
- Trust Athletics Cup – Students from our Samba band and Drumline will be performing at Manchester Athletics stadium as part of a collaborative sports day event. Thursday 2nd July
- Collaboration Concert – Monday 13th July – we hope to offer the opportunity for all players Yr 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. Ticket price TBC.
- In addition to the above planned events we are always liaising with Bradford Music Hub 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
    - We are constantly seeking student feedback to ensure that artists represented in lessons are representative of our demographic and align to our wider Equality, Diversity and Inclusion work
    - We are looking for ways to increase the provision of computer access within our department to allow every student to have an individual computer when we work on music software.

- Outside the classroom
  - We are investigating the possibility of expanding our extra-curricular opportunities to include some Bhangra skills and other workshop style experiences
  - We are currently investigating community projects to allow our families to come in to school during the holidays to use music facilities to give experiences to all ages aligning with our Cradle 2 Career work.

Further information (optional)

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 Hub - Bradford Music Hub
- Bradford Music Hub's Connect Programme Partner - Young Sounds Connect
- BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 in Music Practice - Specification
- WJEC Eduqas GCSE in MUSIC - Specification
- 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.