

Music development plan summary: Gosforth Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Elaine Elliott
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Michael Baxter
Name of local music hub	North and South of Tyne and Darlington
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Newcastle Music Service NEMCO

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

KS3 – Year 9

Year 9 receive two lessons of music each fortnight in our specialist music rooms. They study a range of styles as they develop their listening, performing and composing skills. During lessons we give access to group music making experiences across a range of instruments, and voice. This includes whole class keyboard, guitar, drum kits and sequencing software imbedded into appropriate schemes of work. The Year 9 curriculum is scaffolded so that prior learning is built upon lesson by lesson but also topic by topic, so students not only broaden their skill sets by trying new instruments

but also deepen their musical learning and abilities by developing specific skills. More information on the curriculum can be found on the school's website via this link:

<https://www.gosforthacademy.org.uk/filecache/5fc/cae/9990-year-9-and-gcsemusic.pdf>

KS4 – Years 10 & 11

At KS4 we follow the AQA GCSE Music syllabus (which is graded 1 to 9).

Year 10 and 11 students receive 7 lessons of music over a fortnightly timetable.

Throughout the course students develop their performance skills, where they are able to specialise in their chosen instrument or voice. Students also have the choice to create a multi-track performance using the sequencing and recording equipment in the department. Students have access to a wide range of specialist instrumental teachers and a visiting production specialist from Newcastle Music Service to support them with their performance coursework. Students study a wide range of styles stipulated by the syllabus as they develop their listening and appraising skills. GCSE students also develop their composition skills using techniques covered in the Areas of Study and complete their composition coursework using the notation and recording software (Sibelius, Musescore and Ableton) available in the department. Our KS4 curriculum allows for progression to KS5 to carry on and pursue musical learning at a higher level.

More information on the curriculum can be found on the school's website via this link:

<https://www.gosforthacademy.org.uk/filecache/5fc/cae/9990-year-9-and-gcsemusic.pdf>

KS5 – Years 12 & 13

At KS5 we follow the AQA A Level Music syllabus. More information on the syllabus can be found here: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/a-level/music-7272/specification>

Year 12 and 13 students receive 13 lessons of music over a fortnightly timetable.

Throughout the course students develop their performance, composition and appraising skills while studying a more specialised choice of styles. Over the two years the students will study the compulsory Area of Study on Western Classical Music (covering Baroque Concerto, Mozart Operas and Romantic Piano) along with the optional Areas of study on Jazz and Popular music.

More information on the curriculum can be found on the school's website via this link:

<https://www.gosforthacademy.org.uk/filecache/eb0/88a/9993-a-level-music.pdf>

Part B: Co-curricular music

Gosforth Academy offers a wide range of extra musical opportunities for students. We have a varied extracurricular and instrumental lesson programme.

We work with NEMCO, Newcastle Music Service and self-employed instrumental specialists to offer paired and individual lessons for the following instruments: drums (Paul Wight), piano (Mark Carroll), voice (Matti Imarhiagbe), trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tenor horn (Tom Rushton), violin, viola, cello (Jo Montgomery), flute, saxophone, clarinet, bass guitar (Alex Saxon), and electric, acoustic and classical guitar (Edward Box). In lessons students are supported with their performance coursework and, when appropriate, are entered for Graded Music Exams through Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), Trinity College London (TCL) or Rock School London (RSL).

The fees for lessons vary depending on how many students are in a lesson and the lesson duration. Fees can be found on the NEMCO website <https://www.nemco.org.uk/fees.html#:~:text=If%20your%20child%20is%20using,and%20shown%20on%20your%20invoice.>) and we ask our self-employed teachers to use these prices as a guide for their own fees. Where possible, students can loan an instrument from NEMCO or Newcastle Music service if they do not have access to their own. Students who have Pupil Premium status are often entitled to subsidised music tuition. This is awarded on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the principal.

Our Music Clubs run every day and have always been well attended by different students across the school. Students participate enthusiastically and go on to develop excellent musicianship. All of our school clubs are free of charge and are open to all students in upper and lower school. Our school ensembles include:

Gosforth Academy Voices (choir)

Fusion Band

Brass Ensemble

Chamber Music Ensemble

Music Technology Club

Music Theory Club

GCSE Composition Help

Ceilidh Band

Members of these ensembles work towards performances in school concerts and assemblies as well as providing music for school open evenings and events. We make practice spaces available every day for students to further improve their practical work that begins in the classroom. This regular availability supports individual and small group rehearsal on any instrument and for voice. The practice spaces also allow for the nurture of independently formed rock bands. These groups then go on to perform in front of their peers and participate in local events such as the Band Fest competition hosted by The Royal Grammar School in Newcastle.

Part C: Musical experiences

Students at Gosforth Academy have multiple opportunities to take part in performances throughout the year. This includes formal concerts, informal performance, assemblies and community events. These performances include:

Autumn Term:

Remembrance Day Assemblies

Remembrance Day Community Service

Year 8 Open Evening

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

Christmas Concert

Christmas Carol Performance Grainger Market

Christmas Assemblies

Spring Term:

Sixth Form Open Evening

Gosforth Pyramid Year 8/9 Music Transition Workshop

Gosforth Pyramid Ceilidh

Newcastle Band Fest Summer

Term:

Gosforth Voices Workshop and Showcase

Gosforth Pyramid Summer Concert

Year 11 and 13 Leavers Assemblies

Last Day Festival Zone Performances

All performances are free for the students performing. Students who attend the extra curricular groups take part in the concerts and assemblies. Students studying GCSE and A Level Music are encouraged to take part in Every student who performs at the concerts and ceilidh have access to free tickets for their families to attend. We ask audience members to make a donation towards the events they attend.

In the future

Students at Gosforth Academy have the opportunity to see professional musicians perform live during the Pyramid Transition Day Workshop and during Performing Arts trips to Musical. I would like to offer more trips to professional music performances.

Further information

Further information on musical experiences on offer in the local area can be found on the following sites:

<https://www.nemco.org.uk/index.html> <https://ntmeh.org.uk/>

<https://musicpartnershipnorthnewcastle.co.uk/> <https://theglasshouseicm.org/>