

Music development plan summary: Thorns Collegiate 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	Miss D Wormald
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	T Pell
Name of local music hub	Dudley Performing Arts
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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 Thorns we believe Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.

Music instils many transferable skills in students; teamwork, time management, independence, discipline, public speaking/performing and resilience through listening, composing and performing with and for others. This benefits students greatly in music and beyond.

The intention of the Music curriculum is to engage with great composers and musicians through performance, evaluation and critically listening to a range of styles and traditions informed by suggestions in the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021).

Students will learn to perform, create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence.

Students will understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations which is at the heart of our curriculum.

This music curriculum provides a foundation, development and mastery of rhythm, notation performance and composition skills through a variety of styles and instruments including music ICT.

The KS3 music curriculum at Thorns Collegiate Academy follows a format of appraising every lesson linked to the scheme of work and taken from the model music curriculum followed by a performing or composing task around a theme interweaved with musical terminology that students are expected to learn and use fluently in lessons developing musical knowledge and oracy through music making. More details of the curriculum delivered at KS3 and KS4 can be found here [Music - THORNS COLLEGIATE ACADEMY \(thornsca.org.uk\)](#)

Part B: Extra Curricular Opportunities

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.

Instrumental tuition is available to all students through Dudley Performing Arts:

- Guitar (bass, lead, rhythm, ukulele)
- Strings (violin)
- Brass (trumpet, trombone, French Horn, euphonium)
- Woodwind (flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone)

Tuition offered through Thorns:

- Piano/Keyboard
- Drum Kit
- Voice

Pupil Premium students can access singing and keyboard lessons for free. Looked after children can access all instrumental tuition free.

For all other students Thorns lessons are charged at £72 per term for 121 lessons and £36 for group lessons of up to three students. This can be paid in instalments through the school year via Arbor Pay.

Students can access DPA lessons by signing up directly and paying up front. We also offer a 'pay through school' system to allow parents to afford DPA lessons without paying up front.

Ensembles:

Music clubs at Thorns are Music Rehearsal after school weekly for the whole school year as well as music rehearsals for the whole school musical. Students can find these on the 'Clubs' area of Arbor and the extra-curricular timetable. Students have organically formed bands as well as being invited to rehearse with other students based on the instruments they play.

How to progress in Music outside the classroom:

KS3 Students have access to their BandLab accounts to continue to make music independently. Years 9-11 can access practice rooms at break time and after school to rehearse in groups or independently. Year 7&8 students can access practice rooms one hour a week after school. KS4 GCSE Music students are expected to attend one after school club a week to rehearse for their performance coursework.

Students having DPA lessons have access to all their ensemble groups offered at Resonance. DPA teachers will enter students for exams. Thorns teachers will deliver graded content but no exams will be taken until grade 6. At this point the completion of these grades can count to their progress 8 score and be used for UCAS points when applying to further education.

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.

Music concerts will take place in December and April. Each one having a different theme. All students can perform at these events through an audition process. All extra-curricular groups will perform at each event and there is an expectation all KS4 GCSE students perform in groups or solo.

Tickets are £3 booked through [seaty.com](https://www.seaty.com) with all proceeds go back into the performing arts faculty funding. Students are also invited to support with sound, lighting and front of house to experience non-performing roles in the arts.

As well as the outstanding musicianship students demonstrate at these events, they build immeasurable confidence, resilience and determination as most of these performances are prepared for outside of lesson time or even outside of clubs.

Summer school transition music session is singing workshops around a theme with students performing as cohort at the end of the week linking to the theme of conservation. The bonds students form before they even begin their time at Thorns and demonstrates the impact music can make immediately and build on primary school singing.

DPA offers a range of performing opportunities through their groups and to schools including performing at Symphony Hall in Birmingham and their yearly 'Rock the Castle' event which previously took place at the local venue, Red By Night on The Waterfront. When students can witness what other students at other schools it pushes them further to their full potential.

In the future

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

The music curriculum is reviewed yearly and updated based on trends and changing student interests. The fundamentals remain but the theme it is delivered through is often reviewed.

We are always seeking more opportunities for students to work with outside agencies and ex-students to consider careers in the music industry.

Further information (optional)

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.

See what Dudley Performing Arts have to offer and register for lessons here: [Dudley Performing Arts | Dudley Council](#)