

Music Development Plan Summary: Devonport High School for Girls



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Sharon Mitchell
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Alan Thomas
Name of local music hub	Plymouth/Devon
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Plymouth Music Accord Plymouth University Plymouth Symphony Orchestra

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 pupils can achieve.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8):

- Weekly one hour lessons - taught in tutor groups
- The Key Stage 3 curriculum is informed by the Music Model Curriculum (March 2021) and the National Plan for Music Education
- Throughout the schemes of learning for Key Stage 3 there are regular opportunities for students to develop their singing and instrumental skills on a range of instruments (eg. pianos, keyboards, acoustic and bass guitars, ukulele, tuned and untuned percussion).

Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11) Two groups in each year group:

GCSE Music (Edexcel/Pearson) Two hours/lessons each week

Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13):

A Level Music (AQA) Ten hours per fortnight

Link to subject and Music curriculum overviews (school website):

<https://www.dhsg.co.uk/page/?title=Music&pid=98>

Additional support for exam students:

Weekly after school and lunchtime sessions provide one to one or small group, targeted support to Music GCSE and A Level students. The sessions support their NEA work and provide consolidation/revision of content for the listening and appraising examinations.

Exam students have priority over the use of practise spaces and equipment before/after school and during break and lunchtimes.

Partnerships:

Plymouth/Devon Music Hub

Plymouth Music Accord (a Plymouth based charity which funds the tutor for the school string ensembles)

Teacher training providers (for trainee teacher placements in the Music department at DHSG):
South West Teacher Training and The South West Institute for Teaching

Plymouth University: The Music department regularly has music degree students on work placements providing workshops for our students (eg. band development and GCSE composition sessions).

Part B: Music tuition, choirs and ensembles

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.

Music Tuition

Weekly one to one (20 or 30 minute) lessons provided by a team of visiting singing and instrumental teachers offered on the following instruments:

Strings: Violin, cello

Woodwind: Flute, clarinet, saxophone

Brass: Cornet, trumpet, trombone, French horn

Percussion: Drum kit and orchestral

Guitar: Acoustic, electric and bass (all styles)

Ukulele

Piano

Singing (Musical Theatre and Classical)

Music theory

Students eligible for Pupil Premium receive 50% funding from the school

Choirs and instrumental ensembles:

Weekly lunchtime and after school sessions offered:

Junior Choir (Years 7 and 8) *Free*

Senior Choir (Years 9-13) *Free*

Chamber Choir (open to all year groups by audition) *Free*

6th Form Choir (Years 12 and 13) *Free*

Orchestra (strings, woodwind, brass and percussion) *Voluntary contribution of £30 per term (10 weeks) is requested for each student to fund the cost of the tutor)*

Wind Band (brass and woodwind) *Free*

String group (open to string plays of any ability) *Free to students (the tutor for this group is funded by Plymouth Music Accord).*

String quartets (two string quartets providing high level ensembles for more able string players) *Free to students (the tutor for this group is funded by Plymouth Music Accord).*

Band development (pop and rock sessions for students from any year group providing opportunities for students to form and develop bands) *Free*

Bi-annual Musical Theatre productions: provides an opportunity for students from any year group to participate in singing, acting and dancing or play as part of the band *Free*

Students are also encouraged to take part in Plymouth and Devon Music Hub instrumental and vocal ensembles

Students are welcome to use the music practise rooms and classrooms to rehearse individually or in groups before/after school and during break and lunchtimes.

Part C: Musical performances and experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as concerts, show and trips to professional concerts.

Annual performance opportunities:

Christmas concert – Held in a large church in Plymouth city centre every year in December. The event features performances from all the school based vocal and instrumental ensembles. Students from all year groups can also audition for solo and/or small group items. Students from Years 7 and 8 watch the afternoon performance and there is also an evening performance open to anyone which is free to attend.

Plymouth Music Accord Schools' Concert – Held in Plymouth University's Sherwell Centre in February/March each year. The school's string group and string quartets perform alongside ensembles from other local schools being supported by the Plymouth Music Accord charity. The event is free to attend and anyone is welcome to be part of audience.

Spring concert – Held in the DHSG school hall in April/May. The event features performances from the school based vocal and instrumental ensembles. Students from all year groups can also audition for solo and/or small group items. An audience of students, family and friends are invited to attend for a nominal ticket donation.

Weekly lunchtime concerts – Informal lunchtime concerts take place each week in the main Music room. These concerts provide opportunities for students to volunteer to perform and all students across all year groups are invited to attend this free performance and form part of the audience.

Year 6 transition event – Lower school students are invited to perform to students due to join the school during the next academic year along with their parents.

Awards Evening – Students from all year groups are invited to perform as part of the main awards evening held in the school hall in July each year or as part of a more informal programme of entertainment at the drinks reception held outside on the school field.

Open Evenings/GCSE options evenings/6th Form options evenings – These annual events provide opportunities for GCSE and A Level Music students to perform as part of the main talk in the school hall to an audience of students and parents or to take part in a programme of informal performances in the Music room while prospective students and their parents tour the school. Students are also given the opportunity to assist the Music teachers in discussions about what the Music department at DHSG has to offer/what various exam courses involve etc.

Bi-annual performance opportunities:

DHSG Musical Theatre production: Once every two years during the spring term the Music department joins with the Drama department to stage a large-scale Musical Theatre production featuring a live band. All students are invited to audition for a main part in the show or can be part of the chorus without audition. In addition to this, more able musicians are invited to perform in the production band. There are four evening performances open to anyone and a matinee performance for local primary students.

Theatre trips:

The Music department organises a series of theatre trips each year to watch musical theatre and opera performances at the Theatre Royal in Plymouth. Tickets are offered to exam groups and then opened up to the whole school. Tickets are charged at the theatre's discounted group rate.

Opportunities to watch live orchestral performances:

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra regularly provides free tickets for DHSG students to watch their concerts. The orchestra also visits the school to give performances (this year the

performance was watched by all the Year 7 students, music exam groups and members of the school instrumental ensembles.

GCSE event with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra:

Each year during the spring term, the Year 10 GCSE Music students attend a free GCSE workshop and performance given by members of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in a local venue. The event provides students with an opportunity to watch live performances featuring a selection of the GCSE set works as well as taking part in a composition masterclass.

In the future

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

Increasing performance opportunities:

Local Music Festivals: The Music department would like to enter students into the Plymouth Music Festival (November each year) and Saltash Music Festival (spring term each year). This would provide opportunities for school based vocal and instrumental ensembles to perform along with solo/small group items.

Exam group soiree evenings: Possible cabaret style performance events to showcase GCSE and A Level Music performance work.

Performances organised by the local Music Hub: When appropriate take up opportunities for the school based ensembles to perform in events organised by the Plymouth Music Hub or other local organisations (eg. Christmas performances in the Drake's Circus Shopping Centre, Plymouth).

A Level Music:

From September 2024 the school will be offering an A Level Music course (AQA)

Widening the range of extra-curricular clubs:

From September 2024 with the addition of a second permanent full-time Music teacher, the range of Music extra-curricular clubs will widen with the addition of:

- A newly formed Chamber Choir (by audition to provide challenge for more able singers)
- A newly formed wind band.
- A band development club for students interested in more contemporary styles of music.
- A second string quartet (providing opportunities for the more able string players)

Further information (optional)

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