

Huntington School: Music Development Plan Summary

Overview

| Detail | Information |
|--|------------------------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers | September 2025 – August 2026 |
| Date this summary was published | July 2025 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | July 2026 |
| Name of the school music lead | Tim Burnage |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | |
| Name of local music hub | York Music Hub |
| 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

Our curriculum is designed to help students understand 'how music works' and can lead to GCSE and A Level qualifications in Music and/or Music Technology.

Curriculum Detail

Details of the curriculum for are in the curriculum intent section of the Huntington School website here: [KS3 GCSE A Level Music A Level Music Technology](#)

Curriculum Time

All students in KS3 study Music for an hour a week.

At KS4, students can opt to study GCSE Music and will receive 2 hours of teaching a week in year 10 and 3 hours a week in year 11.

At KS5, students can study A Level Music and/or A Level Music Technology. Students will receive 4 hours of teaching a week in year 12 and 5 hours a week in year 13.

Instruments within the Curriculum

During the 3-year KS3 course, students use their voice, keyboards, and music technology as the primary sources for developing musical skill and understanding. Where students play their own instrument there are opportunities for them to use these within our schemes of work.

At KS4 students compose and perform using music technology, instruments, and/or their voices. There are no requirements for students to have instrumental or vocal lessons as there are pathways through the course for students to complete all performing and composition coursework using music technology (if required).

A Level Music Technology offers students the opportunity to develop their skills in working with technology further. There is no directly assessed performance element to this course – so a high level of instrumental skill is not a requirement.

A Level Music requires students to have a higher level of instrumental / vocal facility (typically grade 5-8) and they will need the support of a specialist instrumental or vocal teacher. However, we are developing opportunities for students to utilise the performance via music technology option within the AQA specification to widen the accessibility of the course.

Part B: Co-curricular music

We believe having regular opportunities for students to play and sing music, outside of lesson times helps them make huge progress as a musician. Like anything, the more you do something, the better you get. You can read further details about how we do this below.

Instrumental and Vocal Tuition

Students are encouraged to continue or take up instrumental and/or vocal tuition when they join Huntington School. Currently we have approximately 125 students learning instruments in one-to-one and paired lessons within school. There are more students learning with teachers outside of school too.

Details of the instruments that we offer and the 10 visiting music teachers that offer these lessons are on the school website [here](#).

For qualifying students (Looked After Children and/or Free School Meals) we will make bursary applications to York Music Hub. Further details [here](#). We also have a small number of in-house bursaries to support those on low incomes who do not qualify for support elsewhere, but for whom the cost of lessons would be prohibitive.

We have a good stock of instruments at school which we are happy to loan to students who are learning free of charge. Where we do not have an instrument to loan, York Music Ed have a stock of instruments which can be accessed.

We have 5 practice rooms which can be booked for independent student practice before and after school and during lunchtimes.

We are committed to developing supportive partnerships with our visiting music teachers and see them as equal partners in the music teaching team. Many are involved in delivering co-curricular ensembles in addition to their instrumental teaching.

Ensemble Opportunities

Ensembles are designed so that there is inclusivity and progression built into them.

Choirs

All choirs are non-auditioned and there is no charge to take part.

Choir 21 is for any female voices from years 7-13 and meets on Fridays after school as part of the 'Big Friday Sing'. The repertoire draws from popular music styles.

Man Choir is for any male voices from years 7-13 and meets on Fridays after school as part of the 'Big Friday Sing'. The repertoire draws from popular music styles.

As well as working on separate material – Choir 21 and Man Choir regularly collaborate on joint numbers, singing SATB.

Secret Choir is for any singers in our 6th form and meets on a Wednesday lunchtime. All repertoire is SATB and draws on a wider range of styles including jazz, classical and traditional.

Secret Choir Juniors is for any singers in Year 10 and 11 and meets on a Friday lunchtime. All repertoire is for SAB and draws on a wider range of styles including jazz, classical and traditional.

Staff Choir is an opportunity for any members of staff to sing together. They regularly collaborate with Secret Choir.

Bands and Orchestra

There are no charges for taking part in any of our bands, but certain levels of instrumental skill are required.

Little Band is for woodwind, brass and rhythm section players working between Grade I and Grade V level. Typically, students will be in years 7-10. The repertoire is pop music, arranged specifically for the band and with invited vocalists.

Broad Band is for string players (grade I and above) and woodwind, some brass (e.g. French Horn) and rhythm section players working above grade V. Students may be from any year group but are typically in years 10+. The repertoire is pop music, arranged specifically for the band and again, with invited vocalists.

Big Band is for trumpet, saxophone, trombone, and rhythm section players working above Grade V. Students may be from any year group but are typically in years 10+. The repertoire is traditional Big Band music and a mixture of instrumental and vocal.

All three bands work towards performances at the annual Live Lounge concert and at annual awards ceremonies.

Band Society is for students in KS3 who wish to form pop/rock bands. It is designed to help students rehearse and communicate effectively, choose appropriate repertoire for their skill levels, and develop as bands. The students work towards performances at the annual 'Battle of the Bands' event. As bands become increasingly autonomous, they are free to book practice rooms to rehearse at other times during the week.

Instrumental Ensembles

There are no charges for taking part in any of our instrumental ensembles, but certain levels of instrumental skill are required.

Paired Piano is for pianists to work on duets together. This takes place during a registration once a week and is typically arranged so there is a senior (mentor, grade V+) and junior partner (pre-grade V).

String Ensembles is for any string player (grade I+). This group meets during registration and play classical, film and traditional music.

Junior Sax Ensemble is for sax players (grade I-IV) to work on ensemble playing and potentially try out different types of saxophones.

Senior Sax Ensemble is for our higher-level sax players (grade V+). This group meets during registration and works on sax quartet material using all four saxophone voices.

Flute Group is for any of our flute players (grade I+). This group meets during registration and play a variety of classical and light repertoire.

Clarinet Group is for any of our clarinet players (grade I+). This group meets during registration and play a variety of classical and light repertoire.

Brass Group is for any of our brass players (grade I+). This group meets during registration and play a variety of classical and light repertoire.

Part C: Events, Opportunities and Partnerships

This section details musical events and opportunities that we organise. Students at Huntington get regular opportunities to participate in and experience live music events throughout the year.

Events Programme

Open Evening (Sep/Oct) is when our year 6s visit the school. In previous years Big Band and Choir have performed as part of the Headteacher's talk to parents and we run an 'open mic' night for our students to perform in the department. Students from any year group are welcome to put themselves forward for the open mic night.

Year 6 Side by Side Workshop (Oct) where we invite year 6 musicians from our feeder primary schools to join with our Little Band (themselves supported by Panto Band) in order to introduce them to the music community and give them a taster of how they can get involved in Music at Huntington.

Battle of the Bands (Nov) is a gently competitive evening which allows for student bands to perform two songs in a gig environment. They receive constructive feedback from our judging panel and a winner takes home the coveted BotB title. Students in KS3 will typically be members of Band Society whilst older students form their own bands to take part. Entry to the event is via ticket sales.

Panto (December) is run and performed by our 6th form as part of their personal development programme (PDP). Our 6th formers direct, rehearse, arrange, and choreograph the Panto over the Autumn Term before performing it multiple times during the final week of term to each year group (year 7-13), members of the public (e.g. parents) and the 'Link group' of retirees from the local community. In January further performances are offered to local primary schools. All performances are free except for the public evening performance for which tickets are sold.

Live Lounge (Mar) is the biggest night in the music department calendar. We transform 4 spaces around school into venues to host the three bands (Little Band, Broad Band and Big Band) and the choirs. On the evening, each band will perform their set three times whilst three sets of audiences rotate round the venues. The 'interval' is held after the second rotation, and this is when the choirs perform. Students get involved through participation in weekly ensembles. Entry to the event is via ticket sales.

Chamber Concert (Apr) takes place at an external venue (YSJ Chapel, NCEM) and is the opportunity for the instrumental ensembles and our high-level soloists to share their work from the year. Students get involved through participation in weekly instrumental ensembles although soloists are invited to perform (these slots are typically reserved for musicians studying A Level music). Entry to the event is via ticket sales (which pays for the venue hire).

Arts Festival (Jul) works in a similar way to Live Lounge (audiences rotating... etc) but involves Dance, Drama, Art, and Music each leading a venue. In 2024, over 150 students took part in the Music concert. Students apply to be part of the Arts Festival in April and if successful will take part in 4 days of preparation before the event. In Music, students learn 5 songs relating to the theme – these are bespoke arrangements for Choir and Orchestra. Entry to the event is via ticket sales.

Lunchtime Concerts (throughout the year) enable students to have informal performance opportunities with an audience made up of their peers. Any student is welcome to perform as part of the fortnightly concerts and visiting music teachers take the lead in recommending (and often accompanying) students for these performances.

Performance Workshops (throughout the year) are for our high-level performers and are run by Catherine Lawes (University of York). These run on a fortnightly basis and are targeted at students working at Grade 6 and above and who are typically studying A Level.

Additional Opportunities for 2025-26

- Man Choir performing at the York Male Voice Philharmonic Choir centenary concert at York Barbican in September.
- Participation in Ampleforth College String Orchestra project in November.
- Planned collaboration between the New York Brass Band and HSM Big Band.
- Participation in the National Youth Orchestra workshop and concert in January.

- Participation in York Community Choir Festival (March) and York Schools Choral Festival (June)

Student Audience Opportunities

- All students will watch the annual Panto.
- We are building performances into School Assemblies (year 7 and 8 in 2024-25).
- Many students are invited to watch the 'friend' performances of the Arts Festival.
- Where there is a concert or show outside of school, that may be of particular interest to a cohort, we will arrange a trip. We have offered discounts to PP students in previous years to make these more accessible (e.g. trip to see Hamilton / Lion King in Manchester).

Partnerships

We intend to work with the following organisations during 2024-2025:

- National Youth Orchestra
- University of York (Martin Suckling, Robert Hollingworth, Catherine Lawes)
- York Music Hub
- Feeder Primary Schools
- Ampleforth College
- Pathfinder / Secondary Music Teachers community
- Music Teachers Association

Part D: Future Plans

For 2025-26 we will have our first cohort of AQA A Level Music students through, so there is work to continue to develop this into its second year.

We are also looking for ways to actively encourage the take up of 'endangered' instruments such as: oboe, cello, double bass, trombone and expand our string and brass teaching further.

We will build on our primary transition work and continue to forge links with our feeder schools; building on events such as the 'Primary Transition side by side' workshop.