

Music development plan summary:

Queen Elizabeth High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2023-24
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2024
Name of the school music lead	Laura Tindall
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Anne Lloyd
Name of local music hub	Music Partnership North
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

Part A – the music curriculum.

‘Everyone has a lifelong right to fulfilment through music’

Curriculum structure

Year 9

All students in year 9 have one hour of Music per week and engage in a curriculum where the key components of listening and appraising, performing and composing are taught. The curriculum is interwoven with ongoing opportunities to practice performance skills, notation, musical elements and composition devices within a given context, for example, Popular Music.

Students have the opportunity to incorporate the playing of their own instrument/voice, thereby always giving stretch and challenge opportunities to the more able and those who have additional lessons.

GCSE

The course studied is the Eduqas GCSE Music course which is assessed through the following components:

Listening (40%)

Performing (30%)

Composing (30%)

Summer 2024 saw the first cohort through the Eduqas course and results were very good. The overall SPI was 1.08, well above the targets of 0.33. There was a remark of 2 students which saw 1 of those move from a grade 8 to 9.

100% of students achieved a grade 4 or above with 86% of students achieving grades 9-5 and 67% of students achieving grades 9-7.

High Attaining Pupils did particularly well at 1.11, with Middle Attaining Pupils not far behind at 0.99.

Sixth form enhancement

Students have the opportunity to study Music Theory up to Grade 8 and have one-to-one or small group tuition.

Part B – musical involvement – instrumental / vocal lessons and ensembles

Instrumental lessons

Current data

We offer lessons in the following instruments/voice taught by visiting specialist teachers:

Piano; singing; flute; saxophone; clarinet; guitar; bass guitar; drum kit; trumpet; trombone; tuba; euphonium; violin.

Approximately 90 students at QEHS have instrumental or vocal lessons. These are paid for directly by the parent to the teacher, or in the case of PP students, the school pays for lessons.

Ambition for 2025 and how we are addressing this

The ambition for 2025 is that 10% of the school population (approx 130 students) have instrumental or vocal lessons. This will happen through continuous promotion of lessons in curriculum lessons and in assemblies and targetting of PP students to let them know about the lesson opportunity and the school funding of lessons.

PP funding

Parents can now apply for funding through the school's Pupil Support Fund. PP+ students' lessons continue to be funded.

Ensembles

There was a good range of opportunities for students to be involved in extra-curricular music-making opportunities. These are/were run by peripatetic Music staff:

- String Group
- Jazz band
- Youth Theatre
- Wind Band
- Flute Ensemble
- QEHS Choir
- Hydroholics (student-led)
- Various bands (student-led)

2024-2025 opportunity

There is a broader range of extra-curricular opportunities as well as some which are cross-trust and therefore are open to both pupils from QEHS and HMS. These are run by Music staff and Peripatetic Music staff

- String Group (HMS/QEHS)
- Show Choir (HMS/QEHS)
- Jazz band (QEHS)
- Youth Theatre (QEHS)
- Wind Band (QEHS)
- BandCamp (HMS/QEHS)
- Flute Ensemble (QEHS)
- Orchestra (HMS/QEHS)
- QEHS Choir (QEHS)
- Northumbrian Pipes (HMS/QEHS)
- Hydroholics (QEHS, student-led)

PART C Musical Performances

Summary of 2023-2024

There has traditionally been two music concerts per year, one in Winter and one in Spring, as well as a Youth Theatre production in January

The music concerts involved a range of extra-curricular groups and student-led bands and would take place across the venues of the Winter Gardens and Hydro Hall. The Youth Theatre production has recently been 'Grease' and 'Godspell' and takes place in the Main Hall.

Ambition for 2024-2025 and beyond

The ambition for 2024-25 and beyond is to continue raising the profile of Music at QEHS through two high-profile concerts, one in Winter and one in Spring/Summer as well as some smaller events to showcase the work of certain cohorts, for example, the 6th form musicians and GCSE musicians. There is also going to be a stronger link between QEHS and HMS with the cross-trust nature of some of the new ensembles and with thoughts to a joint concert or musical theatre event once per year, such as the anticipated 'Songs from the Shows'. QEHS might also look to reinstate its position in having its own Hexham Abbey concert or service as it has in years gone by.

There is to continue being the popular Youth Theatre production in January with this year's production being 'Oliver'.

The Music Department is keen to get music into the community more and there are performances and events scheduled already for:

- Royal Grammar School Big Play Day (Nov 2024)
- Hexham Christmas Lights Switch-On (Dec 2024)

QEHS choir students will also be performing at the HMS Hexham Abbey Concert in Dec 2024 as they have done in previous years.