

Music development plan summary: Louth Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	30/09/24
Date this summary will be reviewed	30/09/24
Name of the school music lead	Mr L Wood
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr J Hermiston
Name of local music hub	Lincolnshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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 Music Curriculum at Louth Academy encompasses the main skills of performing, composing, listening and appraising. Through each topic of study, students are given a range of tasks and activities that are designed to build and challenge students' practical and music theory skills. Students are given the opportunity to learn a variety of musical instruments as well as building singing skills and confidence. This is executed through a range of practical activities where students work, most frequently, in pairs or small groups. Students learn notable, well-known pieces and are taught to create their own music, using stylistic features and devices. Listening skills are applied in every unit of work, with activities designed to build critical listening skills and music analysis. Students are taught to discuss and describe music with increasing coherence, using key words and music vocabulary. As Music Technology is used extensively in KS4, this is introduced in a basic format in KS3 - using industry standard notation and sequencing software. Our curriculum is fast-paced and rigorous to allow for students to learn a wide range of music. It is, however, balanced, to give time for students work at an appropriate pace that is suited to them and allowing them to manage the intrinsic load. Our high expectations and passion drive students to challenge themselves to produce satisfying results that students can be proud of.

KS3

The Music curriculum at Key Stage 3 is sequenced carefully to allow students to acquire, develop and refine their music skills, for them to be successful at KS4 and beyond. Students in Year Seven have two 50-minute lessons per week, whereas students in Year Eight and Year Nine have one 50-minute lesson per week. The units of work are structured to allow for progressive understanding and a development in instrumental skills. Each unit builds upon skills and knowledge learnt previously. Throughout the various units of work, students learn about music from different genres and cultures by understanding the individual stylistic features through the study of the elements, performing, composition activities and listening and appraising. Students will cover the following topic areas:

Year 7

- Rhythm & Pulse
- Musical Elements and the Keyboard
- Scale and Melody Writing
- West African Djembe Drumming
- Ukulele Skills – Melody and Tab
- Performance Skills - Through Practical Performing Arts

Year 8

- STOMP! Body Percussion
- Samba
- The Blues
- Ukulele Skills 2 – Chords
- 20th Century Music

Year 9

- Theme and Variation
- Ukulele Skills 3 – Rhythmic Strumming Patterns and Chord Progressions
- Reggae
- Popular Classics – Sequencing and EDM Remix
- Audio Processing

KS4

Students who opt to student music at KS4 study the BTEC Music course, which is an exciting and modern course that gives you the opportunity to make music and develop your musical knowledge and skills. Students have three 50-minute lessons per week; these lessons are timetabled in a computer suite, in a rehearsal space or in a classroom dependant on the demand at that time. Throughout this two-year course, there is a practical focus, concentrating on skills and products in the Music Industry. The BTEC course is the equivalent of 1 GCSE.

Focus is on four areas of equal importance:

- The development of key skills in music, such as instrumental and performance skills; music creation and song writing, and music production skills.

- Exploring professional and commercial skills that underpin effective ways of working in the Music Industry.
- Application of skills and techniques to create musical ideas and products in response to a Music Industry brief.
- Considering attitudes that are most important in the Music Industry, including personal management and communication.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Louth Academy work alongside Lincolnshire Music Service to provide 1-1 instrumental tuition, with lessons covering all instrument families. This year, we have joined in partnership with LMS, allowing us to take advantage of the block booking system, as well as receiving CDP opportunities and network meetings with the peripatetic staff. Over 10% of students engage in instrumental tuition on a weekly basis, with more requests each day. Individual instrumental lessons are 20 or 30 minutes in length, and are timetabled on a rotation basis. Students are encouraged to enter for graded examinations on their instrument of choice, using a variety of exam boards e.g., ABRSM or Rock School. For students who opt to study Music as a GCSE in year Ten or Year Eleven, Louth Academy fund their 1-1 instrumental lessons, providing those students with further support in their choice of instrument. The music teachers within the academy work closely with the peripatetic staff, especially when students are aspiring for an upcoming performance, or a GCSE performance deadline. Pupil Premium funding is used to subsidise the cost of instrumental and vocal tuition. Within Louth Academy, 357 of our students are Pupil Premium, with over 15% taking up the opportunity of funded instrumental tuition.

We offer a range of extra-curricular activities with morning, form time, lunch and afterschool clubs available on a weekly basis. Clubs include: Lower Choir, Upper Choir, Lower JamBand, Upper Jamband, Keyboard Club, Drama Club, Open Department, Djembe Drumming and Song Writing Club. Lower is years 7-8, whereas Upper is years 9, 10 and 11. Students are encouraged to join in with all clubs, there are no auditions or waiting lists, and the invitation remains open throughout the year. We use posters to advertise the clubs available, which are displayed with the music classrooms, on displays and within form rooms. Our clubs are well attended, with regular students engaging each week. Epraise points are awarded to all students who attend a club – these points can be collected and spent in the Epraise shop. All clubs and ensembles are led by experienced and equipped music teachers, providing a range of musical styles and genres that suit the student's needs or wishes. Instruments and equipment can be borrowed from the department, such as guitars, amps, drum sticks or microphones. There are various opportunities for the ensembles to perform to family members or peers throughout the year, in both formal and informal settings. We

host a winter and a summer showcase yearly, as well as awards events, celebration assemblies, grandparents' day and many more.

We actively encourage students to participate in the Local Music Centre and county groups – this includes the Lincolnshire Music Service groups which we host on our academy site as the East Lindsey representative. These sessions include an instrumental group, as well as a vocal group – all are fully funded, and available to students in the local area.

Part C: Musical experiences

In collaboration with the three music teachers, all senior leaders drive the development of music across the academy and advocate for the importance of music in school life. We have recently been awarded Music Mark accreditation – this is a recognition for ongoing commitment to providing a high-quality music education for all students within our academy. All of our students can access a music education, with well sequenced and delivered, age-appropriate lessons using accessible instruments, equipment and resources.

Each year, we host a winter and a summer showcase; this is an opportunity for students to perform with the choir, as part of an instrumental ensemble, as a solo act or with one of our many extra-curricular clubs e.g., drama club, or djembe drumming club. These opportunities often bring collaborations with other curriculum areas, e.g., the English Department have previously recited performance poetry, the P.E Department have showcased the dance group, the Art Department have created advertisement and the Food Department have provided homemade refreshments.

Students are taken on various educational trips to widen their musical experience, these have included theatre shows (Oceans Eleven at Sheffield - 2023), The Voice It Music Industry Day (organised by the Lincolnshire Music Education Hub - 2024), a Box Clever Theatre performance of Macbeth (Macbeth performance - 2024) and a trip to an old fashioned kinema to look at the history of film music (Kinema in the Woods, Woodhall Spa – 2024). At the Voice It event, students took part in a vocal masterclass with Hayley Sanderson, a song writing workshop with Elliott Morris and a Beat Boxing masterclass. On the Kinema trip, students witnessed an old style organ being performed, learnt about the history of the instrument and had a go themselves.

We recently took part in an EVOLVE project, which was a collaboration with Louth Academy, Louth Riverhead Theatre and Lincolnshire One Venues. This project was a 12-week programme, where 25 students in Year Eight designed, produced and performed in a live music production, in a professional venue. This opportunity provided students with the insight of what goes into the planning of a Music concert, the rehearsal process involved and the organisation of the back stage during a live

performance. Students took on performance and non-performance roles. Family members, peers, teachers and the local public were invited to attend.

In the future

Short/medium term goals:

- Increase the amount of live music being performed to all year groups in the schools. Both from our students, or from visiting performers.
- Increase the number of trips and outside of school experiences that students have access to.
- Implement a vocal/singing scheme of work within the KS3 curriculum as a result of staff attending local CPD events.
- Collaborate with local musicians.

Long term goals:

- Diversify the genres of music that students are exposed to within weekly lessons, assemblies and external visitors.
- Increase the number of students opting to study Music or Performing Arts at KS4.
- Increase opportunities for staff to attend CPD sessions.