

Music development plan summary: Anthony Gell School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	November 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Victoria Fordham
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Derbyshire Music Education Hub

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students 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 students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students' 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 students can achieve.

Students at Anthony Gell School, in KS3, have two music lessons over a two-week timetable. Throughout KS3, students have the opportunity to learn to sing, play the ukulele, guitar and keyboard. These lessons are 20 or 30 minutes in length.

Students can be entered for music examinations such as ABRSM, Trinity or RSL.

Students learn through whole class ensemble, small groups, paired and individual tasks. At AGS, the music curriculum has the National Curriculum and the Model Music Curriculum (2021) at its heart.

Year 7 topics studied are:

- **Building Bricks:** an introduction to musical features using MAD T-SHIRT through a combination of singing, exploring the keyboard, composing and listening tasks.
- **I've got rhythm and Pitch:** an introduction to reading and using rhythm and treble clef, exploring the keyboard, composing and listening.

- **Structure:** an exploration of common structures and forms in larger works through composing, performing and listening.
- **Ukulele:** an introduction to the ukulele playing and understanding chords and TAB
- **Keyboard skills one:** an introduction to learning to play the keyboard including basics of learning to read music and playing with both the left and right hands.

In Year 8 topics studied are:

- **All about the Bass:** Continuing from treble clef in Year 7, students are introduced to the bass clef and how bass instruments are used.
- **Hooks and Riffs:** students learn to recognise hooks and riffs by performing, listening and composing.
- **Ukulele and Guitar:** students will develop ukulele skills through performing and will begin to use guitar following chord and TAB.

In Year 9 topics studied are:

- **Music for Dance:** Students explore 2 distinct styles of music for dance, specifically the classical waltz and 1970's Disco. They will look into the context of these and will listen, perform and compose.
- **Soundtracks:** An introduction to film music through performing, composing and listening.
- **Guitar:** A development of material performing on guitar.

At KS4, we follow the Eduqas GCSE in Music. Students will have five lessons over two weeks where they work towards improving their music listening, composing and performance skills. At KS4, students who receive student premium funding can have instrumental lessons funded through school on application and we also have the opportunity to apply for funds from a local Music Fund.

At KS5 we follow OCR A level music and RSL level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners. This is taught as a Year 14 course over 9 hours a fortnight. Lessons are either Y12 & Y13 mixed or Y12 & Y13 separately.

In Music we tailor activities to meet the varying needs of our students ensuring that reasonable adjustments are made to maximise every student's potential for success within the curriculum.

As a school, we are supported by the Derbyshire Music Education Hub. They are the main link between us and some of our visiting instrumental teachers, more information on this can be found in the following section of this summary.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for students to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how students can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

At Anthony Gell, students can have individual or paired instrumental lessons on the following: piano, guitar, ukulele, bass, drum kit, violin, cello, flute, sax, recorder, clarinet, vocal, trumpet, trombone, french horn and cornet. Students who have instrumental lessons have tuition from specialist instrumental teachers on improving their performance skills and may also work towards graded music exams. These exams can later be used as UCAS points towards entry into higher education.

Students can apply for partial funding on these instruments through Derbyshire Music Education Hub. We as a school can help with the application forms and provide more information. They can also apply through pupil premium and the Wirksworth Music Lesson Fund.

There are 2 choirs that meet weekly. One is for any student of any age, and the other is by invitation only.

There is also a school orchestra that meet weekly and is open to any orchestral instrument and supported by guitar, bass, drum kit and piano.

There is a Rock School where students can form a band and work together to create both covers and/or original material.

All the extracurricular activities are supported and led by specialist instrumental staff.

Throughout Derbyshire there are several music centres that provide opportunities for young people to join ensembles playing instruments and singing outside of school hours. Anthony Gell School host the Wirksworth Music Centre who meet on Saturday mornings and we are also hosts to a guitar club and choir which are used as transition groups from local primaries.

<https://wirksworth-music-centre.org/>

Derbyshire Music Education Hub has a page on their website that has links to more music making opportunities within Derbyshire outside of school time including choirs, vocal groups, ensembles, musical theatre, summer schools and more.

<https://www.derbyshiremusichub.org.uk/get-involved/get-involved.aspx>

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.

At AGS we like to give our students several opportunities to showcase their music talents each year.

In February we give our rock bands a chance to perform at our Band Night.

At Christmas we either host a Christmas Concert in a similar vein to the Spring Concert, or we produce a musical, the latest of which was Chicago. The Music and Dance teachers produce this show which is cast by audition.

Around Easter time we have our annual Spring Concert where all our musical ensembles and soloists have the opportunity to perform. Any student can be involved.

In the summer term, we are hosting an AGS has got talent which will be led by the music department but will showcase a variety of talent from our different houses in school.

As well as these large-scale productions in school we have arranged the following over the last couple of years.

Year 10/11 Music GCSE trip to see the Halle Orchestra.

Year 12/13 musicians have been to record at Dubrek Recording Studio.

All instrumentalists will be given the opportunity to perform at a local venue at an instrumental concert.

Year 12/13 perform at a local pub regularly.

Bi-annual foreign tour with some musical ensembles. The most recent one will be to Germany in 2026.

In the future

Following the key features in the National Plan for Music:

- **Timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week** - Music will continue to be delivered once a week at KS3.
- **Access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice** - Students will continue to have access to private instrumental lessons in school time. I would like to develop this to music production lessons.
- **A school choir or vocal ensemble** – Our school choir meet regularly. We hope to develop our school choir further so that they can perform outside of school at nursing homes or in our feeder schools around Christmas time.

- **A Ukulele group** – We would like to create a ukulele group in the future.
- **Space for rehearsals and individual practice** - There are 2 practice rooms which are equipped with piano, drum kit, bass amp, guitar amps and vocal amps which are used for instrumental lessons through the day and for Rock School in the evenings.
- **Opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year** – I would like to be able to offer this to different year groups.