

Music development plan summary: Samuel Whitbread Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	May 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	May 2027
Name of the school music lead	Hannah Meadows/Liz Major
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Lee Huckle
Name of local music hub	Inspiring Music (Central Bedfordshire)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Part A: Curriculum music

KS3

In year 9 students learn how to perform as a group and compose music, whilst learning some key genres. All schemes enable students to learn key features about the genre and then use these within composition and performance.

- African Drumming
- Minimalism
- Pop Music
- Blues Music (including lyric writing)
- Film Music
- Musical Elements

KS4

At Key Stage 4 we follow the Edexcel GCSE Specification and offer the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice.

GCSE

Component 1: Performance (Internally Marked, Externally Moderated)

- 30% of the overall qualification
- 1 solo performance
- 1 ensemble

Component 2: Composition (Internally Marked, Externally Moderated)

- 30% of the overall qualification
- 1 composition written to a brief provided by Edexcel
- 1 free composition

Component 3: Listening Exam (Externally Marked)

- Instrumental Music
 - J S Bach: 3rd Movement from Brandenburg Concerto no.5 in D major
 - L Van Beethoven: 1st Movement from Piano Sonata no.8 in C minor 'pathetique'
- Vocal Music
 - H Purcell: Music for a While
 - Queen: Killer Queen (from the album 'Sheer Heart Attack')
- Music for Stage and Screen
 - S Schwartz: Defying Gravity (from the album of the cast recording of Wicked)
 - J Williams: Main title/rebel blockade runner (from the soundtrack to Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope)
- Fusions
 - Afro Celt Sound System: Release (from the album 'Volume 2: Release')
 - Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio (from the album 'Esperanza')

BTEC

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles (Internally Marked, Externally Moderated)

- Understand what musical features make up each genre
- Research and find examples of 4 different genres from a list provided by the exam board
- Create 3, 30 second music products that are either:
 - Live Performance
 - Audio Recording
 - Composition for Media, such as film, TV, adverts and computer games
 - Original song or composition
 - Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) Project

Component 2: Music Skills Development (Internally Marked, Externally Moderated)

- Develop skills within 2 disciplines.
- Choice from:
 - Performance
 - Composition
 - Production

Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief (Externally Marked)

- Students are given a choice of 10 songs and 4 genres and they need to change the song into a new genre.
- They can do this by either
 - Composition and Performance
 - Composition and Production

KS5

At KS5 we offer both A Level Music following the Eduqas Specification and the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Technology

A LEVEL

You can choose to specialise in either Performance or Composition and will choose one of the below options:

Option A:

Component 1: Performance (Externally Marked)

- 35% of the overall qualification
- 10-12 Minutes
- At least 1 must be as a soloist, the others can be either solo or ensemble.

Component 2: Composition (Externally Marked)

- 25% of the overall qualification
- 4-6 minutes
- 1 composition written to a brief provided by the exam board
- 1 free composition

OR

Option B:

Component 1: Performance (Externally Marked)

- 25% of the overall qualification
- 6-8 Minutes
- Either as a soloist or in an ensemble

Component 2: Composition (Externally Marked)

- 25% of the overall qualification
- 8-10 minutes
- 1 composition written to a brief provided by the exam board
- 2 free compositions

Component 3: Listening Exam (Externally Marked)

Within the listening exam there is

- Set Work Analysis with a score
- Extended responses on wider context
- Unprepared extracts of music with and without a score
- Comparison Questions.

Students will study:

- Area of Study A: The Western Classical Tradition (Development of the Symphony). Within this, one piece is analysed in detail:
 - Symphony No. 104 in D major, 'London': Haydn.

A choice of **one** area of study from:

- Area of Study B: Rock and Pop
- Area of Study C: Musical Theatre
- Area of Study D: Jazz

A choice of **one** area of study from:

- Area of Study E: **Into the Twentieth Century** including **two** set works:
 - Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano, Movement II: Poulenc
 - Three Nocturnes, Number 1, Nuages: Debussy

OR

- Area of Study F: **Into the Twenty-first Century** including **two** set works:
 - Asyla, Movement 3, Ecstasio: Thomas Ades
 - String Quartet No. 2 (Opus California) Movements 1 (Boardwalk) and 4 (Natural Bridges): Sally Beamish

BTEC

Unit 3 – Music and Sound for Media (Internally Marked)

- Research a variety of media examples and analyse the music and sound within these
- Create music and sound for 4 media products.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the work completed and link to research

Unit 6 – DAW Production (Externally Marked)

- 15 hour exam sat over the space of 2 weeks
- Students are given a brief with 5 samples to use against that brief
- 3 products to be made along with an evaluation of each item.

Unit 10 – Remixing and Reworking (Internally Marked)

- Research a variety of remix examples and analyse the techniques used within these
- Create 4, 30-120 second sketches
- Develop 2 sketches into full, 3-4 minutes pieces
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the work completed and link to research

Unit 13 – Mixing and Mastering Techniques (Internally Marked)

- Research a variety of mixing and mastering techniques and analyse how these are used effectively.
- Students are given a cut up, un mixed track to then ‘put back together’ in a finished, mixed and mastered track.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the work completed and link to research

Unit 16 – Commercial Music Production (Internally Marked)

- Research a variety of genres that are successful in the industry and the techniques that are used within these and analyse how these are used effectively.
- Students to compose their own piece of music which could be commercially successful.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the work completed and link to research

Part B: Co-curricular music

Instrumental Lessons

At Samuel Whitbread Academy we offer music tuition on a one-to-one basis for the following:

- Brass
- Percussion
- Strings (including Guitar)
- Voice
- Woodwind

These lessons are all lead by external teachers that are either through the Inspiring Music, the local music hub or private peripatetic teachers.

We have a huge array of ensembles for students of all years that give them the opportunity to perform at events at least once a term, including an event that included the whole trust.

We will often get instrumental experts to lead workshops on these instruments to

Extra-Curricular

Ensembles we offer are:

- Big Band
- Chamber Choir
- Choir
- Orchestra (support the school pantomime and musical)
- Percussion Group

- String Group
- Student led Bands
- Tech Crew
- Wind Band

Students also have the opportunity to use the software in our music technology suite during lunch times and after school.

To join these students just need to turn up. There is a timetable that is on the school website along with round the music department and different noticeboards around the school that shows when each rehearsal is on.

Other Information

The school has 2 music classrooms – one of which is a music technology suite with 30 windows computers and the option for 5 macs, 4 practise rooms and 1 music studio equipped with a windows PC and a Mac.

Students are able to use these rooms for rehearsals before school, breaktimes, lunchtimes and after school.

Equipment available across the rooms:

- 30 PCs with Sibelius, Cubase and Fruity Loops
- 5 Macs with Logic
- 5 upright pianos
- 1 baby grand piano
- 5 electric pianos
- Acoustic Guitars, Electric Guitars, Bass Guitars
- Guitar and Bass amps
- 3 drum kits
- 1 electric drum kit

Part C: Musical experiences

Performance Opportunities

Every Academic year we offer the following events:

- Performing Arts Christmas Showcase
- Christmas Pantomime
- Spring Concert
- Summer Arts Festival
- Summer Musical

At Christmas we produce a pantomime where we invite the other schools from the trust to join in the performance. The lead roles are by audition but everyone can be in the

ensemble. There is also the chance to get involved back stage by supporting with the sound and lighting, as well as set, props, costume and make-up.

In the summer we produce a musical for Samuel Whitbread students only. Again, the lead characters are auditioned for and the ensemble is open to everyone.

We aim to provide as many performance opportunities for students as we can throughout the year. These vary year on year but some of the events we have been invited to perform at are:

- Local Village Christmas Church Services
- Conference entertainment
- Local Village Fetes
- Memorial Service for Sir Samuel Whitbread
- Service to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee
- High Sherriff of Bedfordshire Event
- VE Day Services
- Workshops at local Lower/Primary Schools
- BEST Trust Governor's Annual Conference

In the future

Moving into future years there are plans to ensure that students have more opportunity to watch live performances.

At Samuel Whitbread we have more than one opportunity each term for students to perform and an array of instrumental and vocal lessons happening and moving forward there is plans to ensure that students don't lose these opportunities and access is available for all.