

Music development plan summary: Hall Cross Academy

Dear Reader,

The following document outlines the Music Development Plan for Hall Cross Academy for the academic year 2025-2026. Aligned with the vision of the Exceed Learning Partnership (ELP), this plan reflects our dedication to equipping young people with the knowledge, skills, and mindset to thrive and take on the world.

As an academy, we are committed to providing an enriched, creative, and innovative education. This document details how we deliver high-quality music provision that fosters a love of learning and develops future-ready skills, while actively working to close attainment gaps for disadvantaged and SEND pupils. It summarises the opportunities available across both our curricular and co-curricular programmes, demonstrating our resolve to be an exceptional place of learning where children thrive.

I am proud to work at Hall Cross Academy alongside our dedicated music team. Together, we embody the Trust's core values - Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day - to aid our students through their musical journey and build a life-long love of music, whatever that might look like in the future.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to email me at **M.Dougherty@hallcross.elp.org.uk**

Yours Musically,

M. Dougherty Head of Performing Arts

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	01/09/2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	15/07/2026
Name of the school music lead	Mike Dougherty
Lead author	Maria Lowry
Name of local music hub	South Yorkshire (Doncaster)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Darts (The Point), Doncaster Arts and Museum Society , Doncaster Music Service , Higher Rhythm , Music in the Round , South Yorkshire Modulo Programme , Water Bear - College of music

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

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

Hall Cross Academy is a Music Mark and Platinum Artsmark school. It is recognised for its high quality provision in the arts both within and beyond curriculum time and for engaging with a wide range of partners to give a breadth of experiences with music central to that offer. This is underpinned by our [ICA-Perform identity](#) and our [ICA-Careers website](#)

The Head of Performing Arts sits on the boards for DCEP (Doncaster Cultural Education Partnership) and DMEH (Doncaster Music Education Hub) ensuring that the academy has a voice in the arts landscape, including music, and that our students have access to the most up-to-date information and opportunities.

Music at Hall Cross is taught through all key stages. The overarching map can be found [here](#). Our KS3 curriculum has been revised to ensure to include the key features of the [national plan for music education](#). Our school music curriculum is also informed

by the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021), which is a piece of non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3.

Year 7 Music Curriculum

As part of the Performing Arts rotation, Year 7 students receive approximately one term of dedicated Music instruction. The curriculum focuses on the fundamentals of musicianship, utilising the ukulele, recorder, and voice to develop essential ensemble and performance skills.

Year 8 Music Curriculum

This course delivers one hour of weekly study centered on composition, sequencing, and instrumental skills. Students apply prior vocal training to keyboard and ukulele practice, exploring specific styles including Blues and Reggae. This progression develops the critical listening and performance abilities required for the Eduqas GCSE specification.

Year 9 Music Curriculum

Building on the foundations of Year 7 and 8, this course provides one dedicated hour of weekly study designed to bridge the gap to GCSE Music. Students advance their keyboard proficiency through the study of melody, accompaniment, and notation, while refining composition and sequencing skills. The curriculum further develops vocal technique and genre understanding through specific units on Songwriting, Film, and Game music.

Facilities and Resources

To support a curriculum focused on active performance and composition, Hall Cross Academy invests in extensive high-quality resources for Key Stage 3. Championing the [Musical Futures](#) approach to authentic learning, our lower school spaces are fully equipped with ukuleles, world percussion, and keyboards. This is complemented by a specialised computer suite and Chromebooks utilising [Chrome Music Lab](#), which supports curricular work and allows students to continue digital composition and music-making at home. To further encourage independent musicianship, students have easy access to three practice rooms during break and lunch times, featuring brand-new pianos, electric and bass guitars, and drum kits.

A more holistic overview can be found here [\(to be updated when Curriculum on School Website is finalised\)](#)

GCSE Music

Building on Key Stage 3 skills, students embark on the **Eduqas GCSE Music** course, focusing on three core components: **Performance**, **Composition**, and **Appraising**. To ensure high standards in performance, the Academy provides every student with a free weekly 20-minute individual lesson on an instrument of their choice. This specialist

instruction runs alongside classroom study, where students create original music and explore genres ranging from Western Classical to Popular Music.

A Level Music

Students progress to the **Eduqas A Level Music** course, a rigorous qualification designed to prepare musicians for university or conservatoire study. The specification offers a personalised pathway, allowing students to play to their strengths by weighting their final grade towards either Performance or Composition. Academic study is significantly deepened through the analysis of the Western Classical Tradition and 20th Century styles, while students continue to refine their technical proficiency and creative voice in a supportive environment.

Key Stage 5 students can also take the **Gold Arts Award** as an additional enrichment qualification whereby they can develop a bespoke programme of study across all art forms including music that suits their skills and interests.

Upper School Facilities and Resources

At our Upper School site, facilities are tailored to support the advanced requirements of students on examination courses. The department features a specialist computer suite equipped with a hybrid setup of Macs and PCs running industry-standard software, (Logic Pro, Muse Score & Sibelius) allowing for differentiated approaches to composition and sequencing. This digital provision is complemented by a dedicated recording studio. To support bespoke musical interests, students have access to professional-grade equipment including mixing desks, JamHubs, DJ decks, and amplifiers. Additionally, practice rooms equipped with pianos and drum kits operate on an open-access policy, encouraging frequent independent practice outside of lesson time.

Instrumental Tuition

Specialist instrumental tuition is available to all students to complement their curricular studies. We are committed to removing barriers to participation; therefore, the Academy fully funds lessons on one instrument for all Pupil Premium students and those enrolled on GCSE or A Level Music courses. For all other students, this tuition is available on a chargeable basis.

We are proud to work with a team of professional tutors who provide bespoke instruction suited to individual goals. Students are guided through regulated pathways from beginner to professional levels using respected exam boards including **ABRSM**, **Trinity College London**, and **RSL Awards (Rockschool)**. This approach ensures access to a wide range of styles - from Classical to Rock and Jazz - and flexible assessment methods. Crucially, our instrumental tutors support students in gaining accredited qualifications, with Grades 6 and above providing UCAS points to enhance higher education prospects.

Instrumental Tuition: Information and Policy Instrumental tuition is secured on an annual basis to ensure consistent provision. Students receive 20-minute individual lessons, scheduled on a rotation system to prevent them from missing the same curriculum lesson each week (where possible); timetables are emailed weekly and displayed in the Performing Arts areas. The fee is **£130 per term**, per instrument, payable via Parent Pay on the Hall Cross Academy website. Students eligible for Free School Meals will not incur charges for their first instrument. If you would like to secure your child's instrumental lesson for September 2026, please complete the form attached [here](#) and return it to **C.Lytle@hallcross.elp.org.uk**

Terms and Conditions:

- **Commitment:** As tuition is booked annually, we are contractually obliged to pay tutors for the full year. Therefore, strict adherence to payment deadlines is required.
- **Payment:** Fees are due at the start of each term. If payment is not received within 14 days without prior arrangement, the lesson will be cancelled and the slot offered to the waiting list.
- **Cancellation:** To cancel lessons, a written email or letter must be sent to Mr. Lytle or Ms. Lowry with at least **one term's notice**.
- **Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. In unavoidable circumstances, Mr. Lytle, Ms. Lowry, or the tutor must be notified immediately.

Inclusive Music Provision

Hall Cross Academy ensures that Music is accessible to all learners by embedding inclusive practice into the core curriculum. SEND students are often taught in smaller group sizes within larger spaces in the Performing Arts department.

Teachers employ differentiated learning pathways, ensuring that students with SEND can access complex musical concepts through practical, hands-on activities rather than purely theoretical study. By offering a wide range of instrumentation - from keyboards to digital sequencing - we allow students to play to their individual strengths, ensuring that disability or need is never a barrier to musical achievement or enjoyment. ICA-Perform embraces the Trust's SEND values of Inspire, Include, Integrity and Exceed. For more information on SEND in general at Hall Cross Academy please click [here](#).

Extra - Curricular Opportunities

Hall Cross boasts a vibrant co-curricular programme designed to engage musicians at all levels. Beyond the classroom, we offer flexible tuition ensembles ranging from one-to-one to large-group instruction for both instruments and voice.

Our weekly schedule features a diverse array of lunchtime activities, including Lower and Upper school vocal groups, keyboard club, guitar group, and a dedicated KS3 band. Students also have the opportunity to participate in major performance groups - such as the school production ensemble, choir, and orchestra - alongside specialist enrichment initiatives like 'Music in the Round composition' workshops and the KS3 Modulo programme.

Day	Time	Activity
Monday	Lunch	Lower School Vocal Group
	After School	School Production (Shrek) Ensemble and solo singing
Tuesday	After School	Year 11 Intervention
Wednesday	Lunch	Guitar Group
	After School	School Production (Shrek) Orchestra
Thursday	Lunch	Band Rehearsal
Friday	Lunch	Upper School Vocal Group

Doncaster Music Service and Ensembles We work closely with Doncaster Music Service to ensure our instrumentalists have access to exceptional resources and wider performance opportunities. A key feature of this provision is the **Instrument Hire Scheme**, offering free hire for the first year and subsidised rates for subsequent years. Through the **William Appleby Music Trust (WAMT)**, students who join Music Centre ensembles receive additional financial support, with examination fees fully funded for Grades 6, 7, and 8. Additionally, all pupils have free access to a diverse range of district-wide ensembles, allowing them to perform in major concerts outside the school setting.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

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

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.

Musical Performance Calendar

Our school groups perform internally and externally on a regular, termly basis, providing students with valuable stage experience. The academic year is punctuated by several major highlights, including our solo and ensemble performances at [Stage Invasion](#) at Doncaster Dome, our community performance at **Doncaster Baptist Church**, our atmospheric **Christmas Soirée**, and the annual **Whole School Production**, which is proudly accompanied by our live student orchestra. Beyond these flagship events, our musicians and singers provide the soundtrack for our **Celebratory** evenings and are actively encouraged to perform during assembly time to build confidence and share their talents with peers. We hold termly in-school and out-of-school performances outlined in the table below.

Academic Calendar 2025 - 2026	Performance opportunity
September	Production Auditions
October	Water Bear Workshop Yr 6 Open Evening
November	Social Justice Project We Compose Concert Lunchtime concert (DAMS) 6th Form Open Evening
December	Christmas Soiree Winter Showcase
February	Yr 9 Options Evening Assembly Performances
March	School Production "SHREK" Yr 10 Work experience performances
April	DMS Chamber Group Performance
June	Summer Showcase Assembly Performances
July	Trust Awards Evening ICA Awards Evening

Members of our alumni and Music Hub regularly support our orchestra for the whole school production. Our alumni students have also offered in class support and one of workshops in order to inspire our students.

Whilst most events are ticketed, the charge is kept as small as possible. With the exception of the Christmas soiree which is at no cost and the school production where charges need to cover licensing, hiring and costs.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

As we look to the future, Hall Cross Academy is committed to building upon our strong foundation to fully realise the vision of the National Plan for Music Education. We will maintain our high-quality provision of at least one hour of timetabled music per week for years 8 & 9 and strive to secure the same for our year 7 students, alongside continued access to diverse instruments, vocal and instrumental tuition, and dedicated practice spaces. We continually review our curriculum to ensure materials remain contemporary and engaging, with plans to introduce new instruments in coming years.

Our enrichment offer is set to expand significantly. We aim to re-establish the Performing Arts annual London Trip and introduce regular visits to 'CAST' in Doncaster to experience live music, alongside opportunities to see live orchestras and West End musicals in the Sheffield venues. We also aspire to take part in the **Music for Youth** regional Festival in Doncaster with aspirations to perform as county participants in Birmingham.

On site, we will continue planning our annual **Musical Productions** and **Winter/Summer Showcases** making sure that all students, no matter their ability, have the opportunity to perform on stage.

To maintain our **Artsmark Gold** status, we will strengthen our musical links with feeder and Trust primary schools, ensuring a thriving musical community that extends beyond the academy gates.

We have an ambition to further support and develop the already established Trust wide music network along with a broader aligned Music Development Plan across all schools.

Further information (optional)

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.