Music development plan summary:

Dixons Broadgreen Academy - Liverpool

This document is designed to give a summary of the high-quality music provision at this academy in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, considering the key features in the national plan for music education:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for Key Stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	October 2027
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2027
Name of the academy music lead	Ms D Ward
Name of academy leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	F Gee
Name of a local music hub	Resonate Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Dixons Academies Trust - Director of Music, Tamsin Rafnsson

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.

- Two members of staff are music specialists within the department. All music lessons are taught by a subject specialist.
- Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 have 1 timetabled music lesson per week. They cover three cycles/topics across the year.
- Students in Year 10 and 11 who opted for music have five lessons across a two-week timetable.
- The curriculum has been extensively redesigned, and the department is intentionally scaling back on breadth of knowledge for depth. There is a renewed focus on keyboard skills in particular in order to build more musicianship for Key Stage 4, use of technology is changing rotation from 2 weeks on 4 weeks off to 4 weeks 'chunks' per cycle and listening skills are being developed to include more links with BTEC Music Practice terminology.
- Students explore performing, listening & appraising in music lessons through practical work and music technology, they develop skills individually and as a team in group work activities.
- The curriculum has been extensively redesigned in order to ensure it builds incrementally across Key Stage 3, thus enabling students to develop skills both individually and as part of small ensembles/groups.
- The curriculum explores a wide range of musical styles and genres which are reflective of the communities that our students are part of.
- The curriculum allows all students to learn and appreciate music from different cultures and styles which builds cultural capital in our students.
- The curriculum is both accessible and challenging for all, so that every student can achieve their personal best under the expert guidance of a specialist music teacher.
- Across Key Stage 3 and 4 students have access to Ableton, Musescore and Sibelius as well as online DAWs including Bandlab.
- Teaching is highly responsive and adapted to a wide range of needs as well as practical ability. This is supported by information from our SEND team as well as Peripatetic lessons delivered by the local music hub (Resonate).
- At Key Stage 3 the pupils will focus primarily on keyboards to develop these skills but, will also have access across the Key Stage 3 curriculum develop their vocal skills as well as other instruments. Pupils will also have access to music technology with a focus on composition and production.
- At Key Stage 3 students are offered free peripatetic lessons as well as a variety of extra-curricular activities to support the skills development.
- At Key Stage 4 students are given more autonomy within music and so a broader range of instruments and practical work are seen in lessons. This includes students who specialise in Music Technology (Production).
- KS4 Students work towards a BTEC Tech Award qualification. Students complete one unit in Yr 10 and two units in Yr 11, allowing sufficient time for re-sit opportunities for pupils to re-visit and refine coursework.

Part B: Extra-curriculum 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.

- In addition to the central music curriculum outlined above student have access to a range of peripatetic instrumental lessons as well as in house drum/guitar lessons. These are taught on 1:1 or small group basis for 15 -25 minutes depending on the group size and experience.
- There is a stock of available instruments for the students undertaking peripatetic lessons. We also offer a small number of instruments to students in need to support their development. This is at the teacher's discretion and is usually for students who have shown exceptional commitment to the department, for example supporting school shows or extra-curricular activities.
- Peripatetic support is available on strings, woodwind, brass, singing, guitar and drums.
- The school has excellent links with Resonate music hub who provide instrumental tuition for singing, brass, woodwind and strings and loan instruments for students to take home to facilitate regular practice.

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- Currently in school we have a range of after school clubs - Choir, Orchestra, school show rehearsals, drumming, 'Soul Band'. We also offer break and lunchtime rehearsal spaces for musicians.
- Guitar and drum lessons are available for students and instruments can be used during the school day for students to work independently and school will support students who need access to guitars and keyboards outside of school to practice on.
- The department works closely with other departments in the school; regularly collaborating with the drama and dance depts to put on showcase events and productions.
- The school also keeps students informed about the Resonate music groups available across the city that they are able to take part in out of school hours.
- Building on the success of the Modulo Programme, orchestra will continue to build capacity and encourages all students that avail of free instrumental lessons to also attend at least on extra-curricular activity either within school or through Resonate music hub

Part C: Musical events and opportunities

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.

- A variety of after school groups are available for students to attend with opportunities to perform and showcase on regular occasions throughout the year - Christmas Showcase, School Production, Summer Showcase. Alongside there are also opportunities to perform at whole school events such as Culture Day, Open Evenings and Prize Giving.
- Awards Open Evening: opportunities for students to perform and showcase work produced in music lessons or clubs.
- Dixons Cup: Historically Dixons Broadgreen has performed exceptionally well in Music for the Dixons Cup. Students are eager to submit applications, and we have always had students accessing the highest awards including overall winner.
- We continue to work with Resonate to develop our orchestral offer. This has included, for example, orchestra play days in a local university.
- In addition to this we continue to work with Modulo using them for training and resources for orchestra. This has resulted in several students committing to another year of peripatetic lessons and engaging in Resonate activities outside of school.
- Collaborative concert, summer term (July, date TBC): this has now become a regular date in the diary for school and for students. Apart from the opportunity to perform in an incredible setting, students also talk about the benefits of meeting other students from the Dixons Trust and watching their performances. For staff in school, it also provides an element of training for putting on large scale shows as well as performance ideas for the future.
- Resonate Music Hub: pupils are aware and encouraged to attend musical groups across the city run by the local music hub.
- Culture days: this student driven event is always popular and has grown from a small event located in the bistro to a fully staged event that the entire school experiences throughout the day. Students are very keen to participate and often there is a waiting list to perform!
- Philharmonic hall: free tickets are purchased and offered to students to enable them to see and experience a live orchestra performing during the academic year. Numbers are limited for the tickets, and these have been previously used as rewards

In the future

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

- An entire curriculum redesign last year has now been implemented with new units of work and new booklets. Booklets and Schemes of Learning have been produced across the year but continue to be edited and updated where appropriate.
- At Key Stage 4 Booklets were trialled by a member of staff last year and have now become standard for Year 10s Teaching cycles.
- Music technology has been overhauled with additional laptops being procured ensuring that classes have now got individual access to computers/laptops. In addition to this, computers have added Ableton and Musescore to their programmes.
- Music technology has also been redesigned to offer more time for students to embed their knowledge and understanding with the new IT curriculum beginning in Cycle 2.
- School resources - have also been reviewed and set up to provide more opportunities for students to practice. This has included a refit of music rooms to include a band set up with PA, a more standardised equipment inventory, additional laptops to support work in our Music IT room and rooms redesigned to be more teaching and learning appropriate.
- We continue to purchase new equipment to provide more opportunities for students to rehearse and perform.

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- We will continue to advertise the provision of music outside the school and encourage students to attend groups run in the community and by Resonate Music Hub and other provisions.
- Trips and enrichment: we are currently planning trips to support the school show, a trip for BTEC students to the British Music Experience as well as other opportunities offered through local music connections in Hope University (piano masterclasses, etc)/
- Student voice: we like to listen to our students and encourage feedback from our students. This will be explored and developed more during the year when students undertake assessments in the IT room, they will also be asked Student Voice questions, so we are regularly receiving feedback from students and acting on this information.

Further information

Please find below some useful links which you may find helpful when considering your child's musical experiences inside and outside the academy:

- National plan for music education: NPME
- Resonate Music Hub: Resonate
- National curriculum for music: National Curriculum - Music key stage 3
- Liverpool Philharmonic

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