

Music Development Plan – Maritime Academy

Music Development Plan: Maritime Academy 2026/2027

Academic year that this summary covers	September 26-27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Katie Twyman
Name of the local music hub	Medway Towns Music centre
Name of other music education organisations (if any)	Kent Music/APM (funding and lessons)

Part A – Curriculum Music

Curriculum Intent

'We believe that in Music, we inspire students by studying a wide range of genres and challenge them to think, speak and act like musicians. Music has the power to transcend differences and allow students to explore a variety of cultures whilst developing their own sense of creativity and self-confidence. From studying Music, we aim to develop students' musical knowledge and skills, through a mixture of performing, analysing and composing music across the curriculum.'

Curriculum Structure and Delivery

Key Stage 3

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is carefully sequenced to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding required for successful progression into OCR GCSE Music. Through a spiral curriculum model, students revisit and refine key musical concepts over time, allowing them to build confidence as

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performers, composers and listeners. The curriculum has been reviewed and adapted for 2025–2026 to strengthen progression into Key Stage 4 and to begin introducing skills linked to future Level 3 Music Performance pathways, including aspects of music technology, project management and the wider music industry.

Year 7 students establish fundamental musical skills through topics including:

1. Elements of Music
2. Keyboard Skills
3. Rhythm
4. Samba
5. Carnival of the Animals
6. Folk Music

These units focus on developing basic performance skills, rhythm, notation reading, ensemble work and an understanding of different musical traditions and cultures.

Year 8 students build upon these foundations through the study of:

1. Rock Music
2. Variations
3. Basslines
4. Reggae
5. Blues
6. Minimalism

Students further develop their performance, composition and listening skills whilst exploring a wider range of genres and stylistic features, alongside more advanced theoretical concepts.

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Year 9 focuses on preparing students for further study and introduces more challenging musical concepts through:

1. Music Through the Decades
2. Classical Music
3. Music Technology Project
4. Film Music
5. Music and Media
6. Business Music Project

The Year 9 curriculum has been specifically designed to provide a strong bridge into OCR GCSE Music. Alongside developing GCSE-related skills in performing, composing and appraising, students are introduced to collaborative and project-based learning. The Music Technology Project develops sequencing, recording and production skills through BandLab, while the Business Music Project encourages students to explore areas such as event planning, promotion, budgeting and project management, reflecting aspects of the music industry and supporting future progression into Level 3 music-based qualifications.

Each scheme integrates practical performance, listening and appraisal, composition and theoretical understanding, ensuring that students develop as well-rounded musicians. Students also explore the historical, social and cultural contexts of music, promoting an appreciation of diverse musical traditions, genres and styles.

Key Stage 4 – GCSE Music

Students may choose to continue their musical studies through OCR GCSE Music. The course develops skills in performing, composing and appraising music whilst encouraging students to think critically and creatively as musicians. The Key Stage 3 curriculum has been designed to equip students with the foundational knowledge, practical skills and confidence required for success at GCSE.

Our aim is to ensure students are prepared not only for examination success but also for further musical study, performance opportunities and careers within the creative industries.

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Future Key Stage 5 Provision

As Maritime Academy continues its journey towards becoming an 11–18 school, plans are being developed to introduce a Key Stage 5 music qualification. This will provide students with a clear progression pathway beyond GCSE and support those wishing to pursue further study or careers within music, performance, production and the wider creative industries.

Assessment

Assessment in Music is ongoing and embedded throughout the curriculum. Students complete a range of practical, theoretical and listening-based activities which allow teachers to monitor progress and provide feedback regularly.

Practical assessments are completed every term, with self- and peer-assessment opportunities used throughout the year to encourage reflection and independent improvement. Written assessments covering musical theory, listening skills and contextual understanding are completed in line with the school assessment calendar. This ensures students receive a balanced assessment of their musical development across all strands of the curriculum.

Music Technology

Music technology plays a significant role in the curriculum. Through the academy's one-to-one device programme, students have access to digital learning platforms including Class Notebook, Teaching Gadget and BandLab. This DAW is used to support composition, sequencing, recording and music production projects across Key Stages 3 and 4. Students develop skills in MIDI sequencing, digital composition and music production from an early stage, preparing them for GCSE coursework and future study within music and music technology pathways.

Resources and Facilities

The Music Department is well resourced and provides students with access to a wide range of instruments and specialist facilities.

Resources include:

- 15 electronic keyboards with headphone access to support paired and independent learning in each classroom

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- Acoustic guitars, electric guitars and bass guitars with amps
- Ukulele's for a class
- A full drum kit
- 2 electric drum kits
- A range of tuned and untuned percussion instruments, including world music instruments
- Full-size electric pianos in each teaching space and practise rooms (3)
- An upright piano
- Three practice studios for individual and small-group rehearsal
- Two dedicated music classrooms containing 13-15 computers each.

These facilities support both curriculum learning and extracurricular activities, ensuring students have regular opportunities to rehearse, perform, compose and develop their musical skills independently.

Instrumental and Vocal Provision

Instrumental Lessons

Maritime Academy offers students the opportunity to receive individual or small-group instrumental and vocal tuition through our visiting music service provider, Andrew Parry Music and a peripatetic teacher. Lessons are currently available in:

- Drums
- Guitar
- Bass Guitar
- Keyboard/Piano

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- Vocals
- Saxophone

Lessons take place during the school day and are delivered by specialist instrumental teachers. Information regarding lesson costs, availability and registration can be found via the Andrew Parry Music website.

Students and families can sign up directly through the provider's website. Once registrations have been received, the Music Department liaises with the provider to organise lesson timetables and minimise disruption to students' academic studies.

Vocal Development

Students are provided with a range of opportunities to develop their vocal skills both within and beyond the curriculum.

A weekly Choir Club runs for one hour during school as part of Horizon and is open to students of all abilities. The choir provides opportunities for students to develop vocal technique, ensemble performance skills and confidence through regular rehearsals and performances.

Students may also participate in other enrichment Horizon, Band, which periodically includes music-based projects and band opportunities that enable singers to perform alongside instrumentalists in a collaborative setting. This is open to students and run by specialist using the funding from Kent Music.

Performance Opportunities

Performance is a key aspect of musical development at Maritime Academy. Students are given a variety of opportunities throughout the academic year to showcase their talents and develop confidence as performers. The Music Department typically delivers two to three performance events each year, including concerts and collaborative productions with the Performing Arts department. These events provide opportunities for solo and ensemble performance, vocal participation and musical leadership, allowing students to perform for audiences both within the school and the wider community. Through curriculum lessons, instrumental tuition, extracurricular activities and performance opportunities, we aim to ensure all students have access to meaningful musical experiences and clear pathways for further musical development.

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Part B – Co-curricular Music

Current Opportunities

Choir

A weekly after-school choir is open to students of all abilities and provides opportunities to develop vocal technique, ensemble skills and performance confidence. The choir rehearses for one hour each week and typically attracts up to 30 students. Throughout the year, rehearsals are adapted to support upcoming concerts, productions and other performance events, ensuring students have regular opportunities to perform for audiences within the school community.

Production Club

In the lead-up to school productions and concerts, rehearsals are offered to support cast members, musicians and vocalists involved in performances. These opportunities allow students to develop their rehearsal discipline, teamwork and stagecraft while working towards high-quality public performances.

Horizon Activities

Students can participate in the academy's enrichment programme, Horizon, which offers a variety of activities across 12-week cycles. Music-based Horizon activities may be delivered by Music Department staff or colleagues from other subject areas, providing opportunities for students to explore music through ensemble performance, band work and creative projects.

Independent Practice Opportunities

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Students have access to dedicated practice spaces after school on selected days throughout the week, allowing them to rehearse independently, develop instrumental or vocal skills, prepare for performances, or work on composition and music technology projects. These facilities encourage independent learning and personal musical development beyond curriculum lessons.

Performance Opportunities

Students regularly have opportunities to perform both within and beyond the classroom. Music students have performed at academy open evenings, showcasing the work of a student-led band and helping to promote music within the wider school community.

Future Development

Additional Ensembles

As the department continues to grow, opportunities for students to participate in instrumental ensembles will be expanded. Planned developments include a Keyboard Club and Ukulele Club, both of which will be open to students across all year groups and will aim to rehearse for approximately one hour each week. These ensembles will provide additional opportunities for collaborative music-making and performance.

Student Leadership and Student-Led Groups

The department aims to establish a Music Ambassador programme from 2026–27, providing leadership opportunities for students with a particular interest in music. Alongside this, existing student-led initiatives will continue to be encouraged, including student bands and collaborative projects. As GCSE cohorts progress through the school, opportunities for older students to mentor younger musicians will also be explored, particularly through supervised lunchtime activities and rehearsal opportunities.

Music Technology Club

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The department is exploring the introduction of a Music Technology Club for Key Stage 3 students. Using platforms such as BandLab, students would have the opportunity to develop skills in music production, recording, sequencing, composition and audio editing, supporting both curriculum learning and future progression into GCSE Music.

GCSE Support Sessions

With the introduction of the school's first Year 11 GCSE Music cohort, additional after-school support sessions will be offered to students. These voluntary sessions, expected to run for one hour per week, will provide support with performance preparation, composition coursework, listening skills and examination preparation, helping students achieve their full potential at GCSE.

Partnerships and External Opportunities

The Music Department continues to promote opportunities provided by external organisations, including links with the Medway Music Association (MMA) and music technology projects. As the department develops, further partnerships will be explored to increase opportunities for performance, workshops and musical enrichment.

Part C – Musical Experiences

Music at Maritime Academy extends beyond the classroom through a range of performance opportunities, trips and enrichment experiences. These opportunities allow students to experience music in live settings, develop confidence as performers and gain a greater understanding of the role music plays within the wider community and creative industries.

Performance Opportunities

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Students have regular opportunities to perform throughout the academic year, allowing them to apply and showcase the skills developed in curriculum lessons and extracurricular activities.

Current opportunities include:

- **Christmas Concert** – an annual concert featuring vocal and instrumental performances from students across the academy.
- **School Productions** – delivered in collaboration with the Performing Arts Department. The academy has successfully staged a large-scale production within the last two years, and future productions will continue to offer opportunities for musicians, singers and performers.
- **Assemblies** – specialist instrumental tutors from **Andrew Parry Music** visit the academy annually to perform and promote instrumental and vocal opportunities to incoming Year 7 students.
- **Open Evenings** – student musicians regularly perform at academy open events, helping to showcase the work of the Music Department and inspire prospective students.

These experiences help students develop confidence, resilience, teamwork and stage presence whilst celebrating their musical achievements.

Trips and Visits

Students are encouraged to experience music beyond school through visits to live performances and cultural events.

Current opportunities include:

- **Musical Theatre Trips** – organised by the Performing Arts Department, with support from the Music Department where appropriate.
- **Concert Visits** – the department aims to organise an additional concert visit during the spring term where opportunities arise.
- **Future Makers Events** – the Music Department plans and promotes attendance at Future Makers events annually, giving students access to professional performances and musical experiences.
- Other live music and theatre opportunities may be offered throughout the year where they align with curriculum learning and student interest.

Where possible, free or low-cost opportunities are prioritised to ensure accessibility, with students typically only required to cover transport costs.

Community Engagement

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The Music Department is committed to developing opportunities for students to engage with the wider musical community.

Current and future priorities include:

- **Feeder Primary Schools** – the department is exploring opportunities to collaborate with local primary schools, particularly through future school productions and performance events.
- **Trust Events** – where music events or collaborative opportunities are available across the Trust, the department aims to participate and support student involvement.
- Continued exploration of partnerships with local organisations, venues and music providers to broaden students' musical experiences.

Future Development

As the academy continues to grow, the Music Department aims to:

- Increase the range and frequency of live performance opportunities.
- Expand participation in concerts, productions and community events.
- Strengthen links with feeder primary schools through collaborative performances and transition events.
- Increase attendance at live music performances and educational visits.
- Explore additional partnerships with local music organisations and industry professionals.

Through these experiences, we aim to foster a lifelong appreciation of music and enable all students to access meaningful musical opportunities beyond the classroom.

Student Leadership

As the Music Department continues to grow, opportunities for student leadership will be developed to encourage greater ownership of musical activities and provide students with valuable experience in teamwork, organisation and communication.

Music Ambassadors

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The department aims to introduce a **Music Ambassador Programme** from 2026–27. This programme will provide students with opportunities to support the development of music across the academy whilst acting as positive role models for younger students.

Music Ambassadors may be involved in:

- Supporting performances at academy events, including Open Evenings and concerts.
- Assisting with the organisation and preparation of school performances and productions.
- Helping to manage and organise music department resources and equipment.
- Promoting music opportunities and encouraging participation in clubs, performances and instrumental lessons.
- Supporting younger students through peer mentoring and musical leadership activities.
- Assisting with rehearsals and extracurricular activities where appropriate.
- Acting as student representatives for the Music Department and contributing to student voice initiatives.

Future Development

As Key Stage 4 and future Key Stage 5 provision expands, the Music Ambassador Programme will provide increasing opportunities for students to take leadership roles within the department. Older students will be encouraged to support younger musicians through mentoring, rehearsal support and the development of student-led ensembles and projects.

Through these leadership opportunities, students will develop confidence, responsibility and a stronger sense of ownership over the musical life of the academy, whilst contributing positively to the wider school community.

Development Priorities 2026–2029

In 2025–2026, the Music Department undertook a comprehensive review of its provision. Key developments included:

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- Reviewing and adapting the Key Stage 3 curriculum based on teacher evaluation, student voice and assessment outcomes.
- Establishing moderation opportunities through Trust and local music networks to support the successful delivery of OCR GCSE Music.
- Auditing and maintaining departmental equipment to ensure all instruments were fully operational.
- Embedding extracurricular opportunities, including choir and production-based activities.
- Successfully recruiting the academy's first GCSE Music cohort, with 21 students (approximately 12% of the cohort) beginning OCR GCSE Music.
- Identifying and addressing gaps between different groups of students, particularly supporting disadvantaged and SEND students with music theory and written components.

Priority 1: Develop and Improve GCSE Outcomes

- Ensure the success of the academy's first GCSE Music examination cohort.
- Maintain GCSE uptake at approximately 10–12% of the year group, with a target of around 20 students per cohort by 2029.
- Ensure students achieve their target grades, with all students supported to achieve at least a Grade 4 where appropriate.
- Continue moderation through Trust and local music networks.
- Develop transition materials and bridging projects between Key Stage 3 and GCSE Music.

Priority 2: Increase Participation in Extracurricular Music

- Increase participation in music extracurricular activities from approximately 15 students to at least 30 students by 2029.
- Continue to develop choir provision and independent practice opportunities.
- Introduce additional clubs, including keyboard and ukulele ensembles where staffing allows.
- Increase participation across Key Stages 3 and 4.

Priority 3: Develop the Music Ambassador Programme

- Establish a Music Ambassador Programme from 2026–27.

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- Recruit approximately 10 student ambassadors from Key Stage 4 through an application and selection process.
- Develop leadership opportunities through performances, events, mentoring and departmental support.
- Encourage student ownership and leadership within the musical life of the academy.

Priority 4: Expand Performance Opportunities

- Continue to deliver a minimum of two major performance events each academic year.
- Maintain the annual Christmas Concert.
- Introduce and develop a Summer Showcase event.
- Ensure all GCSE Music students have the opportunity to perform publicly at least once each year.
- Increase student participation in concerts, productions and academy events.

Priority 5: Prepare for Key Stage 5 Music Provision

- Prepare for the introduction of the BTEC Nationals Level 3 Music Performance qualification.
- Develop curriculum resources and pathways to support post-16 study.
- Promote progression routes from GCSE Music into Sixth Form.
- Launch the first Key Stage 5 Music cohort in 2028.

Priority 6: Strengthen Partnerships and Community Engagement

- Continue to strengthen relationships with local feeder primary schools and schools within the Trust.
- Explore opportunities for collaborative performances and transition events.
- Continue engagement with organisations such as Future Makers and the Medway Music Association.
- Investigate opportunities for a primary transition concert or performance project.

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Measuring Success

The impact of this Music Development Plan will be reviewed regularly through the following measures:

Curriculum and Qualifications

- GCSE Music uptake maintained at approximately 10–12% of the cohort.
- A target of approximately 20 students per GCSE cohort by 2029.
- Students achieving or exceeding their target grades.
- Positive outcomes in written, practical and listening assessments.

Participation and Enrichment

- Increase extracurricular participation from approximately 15 students to 30 students by 2029.
- Maintain and develop a range of musical clubs and enrichment opportunities.
- Monitor attendance at choir, productions and future instrumental ensembles.

Performance Opportunities

- Delivery of at least two major performances annually.
- Continued participation in the Christmas Concert and Summer Showcase.
- Public performance opportunities for GCSE Music students.

Instrumental and Vocal Development

- Maintain and increase participation in instrumental and vocal tuition from the current 20 students.
- Monitor student engagement with independent practice opportunities.

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Student Leadership

- Establish a Music Ambassador Programme with approximately 10 ambassadors.
- Monitor student involvement in mentoring, performances and departmental leadership.

Trips and Musical Experiences

- Deliver at least two Music Department trips annually where possible.
- Maintain participation in Future Makers events and similar opportunities.
- Monitor student participation in live music and theatre experiences.

Partnerships and Community Engagement

- Develop collaborative opportunities with primary schools and Trust partners.
- Maintain links with external providers, including the Medway Music Association.
- Increase opportunities for students to participate in community-focused musical activities.

Student Voice

Student voice will be gathered and reviewed following Terms 2, 4 and 6 to inform future curriculum, enrichment and musical experience planning. This gives you measurable targets without making promises you might struggle to meet, and reads much more like a professional published Music Development Plan.