

Music development plan summary: Robert Bloomfield Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 – 2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr H Fisher
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr C Marshall
Name of local music hub	Inspiring Music in Central Bedfordshire
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Peripatetic Tutors● Bedfordshire Music PSG

This is a summary of how Robert Bloomfield Academy (RBA) delivers music education to all our students across four areas:

1. Curriculum Music,
2. Co-curricular Music,
3. Musical Experiences, and
4. Planning for 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.

Curriculum Content / Opportunities

Our school curriculum is modelled according to the "[Model Music Curriculum: Key Stages 1, 2 and 3](#)" published by the Department for Education in March 2021 and, currently, students have 1 Music lesson for every 2 week cycle.

As a result, all students gain experience in the 4 key areas from the Model Curriculum:

1. Singing
2. Listening
3. Composing
4. Performing / Instrumental Performance

Additionally, and due to our extensive curriculum, students are provided with opportunities within their music lessons to learn how to play the following instruments:

- Human Voice (Singing)
- Piano
- Guitar
- Drums
- Percussion Instruments
- Ukulele

Each year group follows 3 structure topics that, in addition to providing access to learning music theory; new instruments; musical genres and styles, encompasses the 3 pillars of music – technical, constructive, expressive – and the 4 key areas from the Model Curriculum (DfE, March 2021).

Year 5 study: - Music Theory & Reading Notation
 - Singing Technique
 - Chords, Key Signatures & Scales

Year 6 study: - Sight Reading
 - Composition of a theme
 - Blues Music

Year 7 Study: - 7 Ages of Rock

- Music Technology
 - Film & TV Music
- Year 8 Study:
- Practical Performance
 - Reggae Music
 - Music Composition Diploma

Delivery of lessons

Currently students have 1 Music lesson for every 2-week cycle, however we are targeting an increase to 1 lesson per week within the next 5 years.

During their lesson's students are taught elements of Music Theory and are given opportunities to practically apply this acquired knowledge to a range of instruments.

Whilst developing their understanding students will work individually, and collaboratively. Teaching staff will then provide students with relevant feedback relating the their understanding of the theory and their ability to apply that knowledge.

Music Partnerships

RBA is in partnership with "Inspiring Music in Central Bedfordshire" who support the school with high quality Extra-Curricular and Peripatetic provision. In addition, "Inspiring Music in Central Bedfordshire" also provide access to a 'New Music Curriculum Advisor' who is able to support the school with guidance and assistance on how to implement new statutory and current non-statutory requirements within the Music Department.

We are also a member of the 'Bedfordshire Schools Music Partnership Support Group.'" This is a network of schools within the Bedfordshire County where Music Departments can share good practice, support each other with Continued Professional Development (CPD) opportunities, aid with Quality Assurance and Moderation of work plus, allow Music teachers to meet and get to know one another within the county.

Special Education (SEND) and Disabled Student Needs

SEND and Disables Students at RBA are catered for on an individual basis through 'Adaptive Teacher and Provision'. The Music Room(s) are all wheel chair and disability access friendly and teachers within the department have access to all essential information about each student to advise and adapt their teaching.

More information about this can be located on the [Robert Bloomfield Academy Website](#) (click for link to site).

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 pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

Peripatetic Music Tuition

At RBA we currently have 9 Peripatetic Music Tutors who offer a wide range of specialised Peripatetic Music Tuition sessions that include:

- Woodwind,
- Brass,
- Strings,
- Percussion,
- Piano,
- Music Tech / Production and
- Singing

Each of our 9 Peripatetic are highly trained, with years of experience delivering personalised 1-to-1 or small group-based sessions to students at RBA. These sessions are paid for by parents and all arrangements are made direct between tutor and parent. Our tutors are either self employed or, are a tutor that works for 'Inspiring Music in Central Bedfordshire' and all offer highly competitive rates.

To support the families of RBA students we offer an instrument loan service to help reduce costs of purchasing an instrument and for eligible Pupil Premium Students, their families can apply for funding to help subsidise, or pay a percentage of, the cost of the sessions.

RBA has 3 dedicated Rehearsal Rooms that the tutors use which, are equipment with sound dampening boards and all necessary equipment to help deliver their sessions effectively and efficiently.

As of September 2024, our Peripatetic Programme runs every day of the week but, is

always expanding.

Ensembles, Orchestra, Young Voices Choir and Bands

In addition to the wide range of Peripatetic sessions, RBA Music Department also offer students the opportunity to be a part of:

- Brass Ensemble,
- School Orchestra,
- Young Voices Choir and
- Varying bands within Key Stages 2 & 3

Brass Ensemble and School Orchestra are supported through, the purchasing of 'Curriculum Enrichment Offers' through 'Inspiring Music in Central Bedfordshire' and are delivered by highly trained tutors who achieve exceptional results. In the 2023 – 2024 academic year our Brass Ensemble learnt just over 10 pieces and our School Orchestra learnt 5 with, many of those pieces being performed at our Annual Summer Recital Evening.

Talent Factory

Talent Factory is a Music Production peripatetic opportunity provided by Talent Factory that allows students to compose, develop and create their own pieces of music using modern technological means.

Once students have created a piece of music it is shared with families and the school and can even be used at our Annual Recital Evening or in assemblies as an entrance piece of music.

Extra-Curricular

At RBA we provide a weekly array of Extra-Curricular opportunities for students.

Extra-Curricular opportunities have and do include:

- School Orchestra
- Brass Ensemble

- School Bands (within each Year Group)
- Young Voices / School Choir
- Keyboard Club
- Ukulele Group

All Extra-Curricular provision is of high quality and provides students at RBA with opportunities to personally develop and continue developing their passion for Music.

Music Awards / Grading

Through the Peripatetic and Extra-Curricular opportunities at RBA students have the potential to acquire Instrument and Theory Grading across a number of different Exam Boards.

RBA also works closely with “Inspiring Music in Central Bedfordshire” to maintain its Music Mark status for the school.

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.

During their time at RBA students have an abundance of opportunities to demonstrate their passion for Music.

School Production

Students within Key Stage 2 are encouraged to audition for supporting / background roles within our school’s annual production whilst, Key Stage 3 are encouraged to audition for the main / leading roles.

The School Production is an annual event held during the summer term and previous productions include:

- The Lion King Jr
- Frozen Jr
- Matilda Jr

If possible, depending upon musicians within the school, the Music Department will also support by creating a live band to play the music for the production.

This is a very successful and popular event held over 3 days for which tickets are charged for so that, the school may raise additional funds

Annual Recital Evening

All students are given the opportunity to perform at our Annual Recital Evening which is held during the summer term.

Throughout the evening there will be solo performances by students on different instruments; performances by the schools Brass Ensemble and Orchestra; any pupils involved in Talent Factory (see Part B: Co-Curricular Music) who have composed a digitised piece of music; and the school bands from each year group.

This is a popular and well support event that is highly attended. There is no charge to attend the evening but, those who do attend are encouraged to make a donation and purchase refreshments from our 'Parent Teacher Association' who kindly provide this facility.

Annual Talent Show

Within the final weeks of the winter term we host our Annual Talent Show known as 'Bloomfield's Got Talent'.

Every, and all, student with a musical, theatrical or any other talent is encouraged to audition for the final performance.

During the final performance, students perform to the entire school and a judging panel. The judging panel, ultimately, decide the victor of the evening but audition reaction is considered whilst the artists perform.

Young Voices

Every year at RBA we promote Young Voices to our Key Stage 2 students and provide them with the opportunity to participate in the Young Voices Choir held at the O2 Arena, London in early January.

Each week the choir has 2 practices to help them learn the required songs, practice all routines and prepare for the concert performance.

A cost is incurred by families for tickets to the performance and for t-shirts for the

students to perform in which is, provided annually given the numbers that perform.

Public Performances

Throughout the academic year students are able to perform publicly at a number of different events. Possible events include:

- School Assemblies,
- Open Evening,
- Lower School visits and
- Under 18 Open Mic Night at Cellar Bar, Bedford

Part D: Planning for Future Years

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

RBA is a constantly developing, growing and thriving school and as such, the Music Department grows, develops and thrives with it. Therefore, inline with the Schools Improvement Plan, RBA Music Department has a five-year ambition to achieve the following targets:

- 1 hour per week rotation of music lessons for all students
- Creation of a band / ensemble / group rehearsal and recording room
- Creation of a music tech / podcasting room
- Soundproof doors and soundproofing / sound dampening of all music related rooms
- Development of opportunities for school performances each term
- Meeting the requirements of the national plan