

Music Development Plan summary: Ivybridge Community College

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2027
Headteacher	Mrs Rachel Hutchinson
Name of the school Music Lead	Ms Courtney Wood
Name of local Music Hub	Devon Music Education Hub

Vision Statement:

We believe music is for everyone. Our inclusive, creative, and dynamic curriculum is designed to help every student reach their full musical potential. Through a balance of performance, composition, and listening analysis, students develop strong musical understanding alongside key transferable skills including teamwork, creativity, problem-solving, and confidence. By striving for academic excellence, building character through meaningful musical experiences, and providing exceptional opportunities to perform, create, and lead, we inspire students to become confident, resilient, and lifelong participants in music.

Objectives for the year:

1. Maintain and enhance a broad, inclusive yet challenging curriculum across all Key Stages.
2. Integrate music technology into teaching and composition projects at KS3.
3. Increase student participation in music ensembles and extra-curricular activities.
4. Create Co-Curricular Music opportunities in line with whole school development of Co-Curricular provision
5. As a Lead School of Music, continue collaborating and sharing best practice with other schools in the area and working with Devon Music Hub.
6. Participate in Choral opportunities provide by the Devon Music Hub and external organisations to promote Singing.

Part A: Curriculum Music

Music Curriculum:
Key Stage 3

Music is a valued and established part of the curriculum at Ivybridge Community College. Our KS3 Music curriculum is designed to develop pupils' musical knowledge, skills, creativity and confidence through a balanced programme of performing, composing, listening and appraising. Pupils experience a broad range of musical styles, traditions and cultures and develop the practical and theoretical knowledge required to participate successfully as musicians.

At Year 7 and 8, pupils currently receive one timetabled hour of Music per fortnight for six months then two timetabled hour of Music per fortnight for the other six months. In Year 9, pupils currently receive one timetabled hour of Music per fortnight. This is complemented by the College's dedicated Co-Curriculum hour, which is available to all pupils and provides a wide range of opportunities across Music and the Performing Arts.

The Co-Curriculum offer provides an important extension to the formal Music curriculum, enabling pupils to develop their practical musicianship, creativity, performance skills, ensemble experience and confidence through active participation. Pupils can engage in a range of musical and performing arts activities, providing opportunities to develop particular interests and talents, work collaboratively and experience music in different contexts. This provision supports our commitment to ensuring that all pupils have access to meaningful and enriching musical experiences, regardless of prior experience or level of musical attainment.

Our approach therefore combines high-quality classroom Music teaching with accessible, inclusive and diverse co-curricular opportunities, allowing pupils to experience music both as an academic subject and as a practical, creative and collaborative activity.

Curriculum Development and Review

The College recognises the importance of regular and sustained curriculum time in enabling pupils to develop musical knowledge and skills progressively. Curriculum design meetings are taking place to review the current KS3 Music curriculum allocation, alongside the impact and effectiveness of the wider Co-Curriculum offer.

As part of this ongoing review, the College is exploring opportunities to increase dedicated KS3 Music curriculum time towards one hour per week, whilst maintaining and further strengthening the complementary Co-Curriculum provision.

This work forms part of our commitment to continuous improvement in Music provision and will ensure that future curriculum planning provides pupils with the strongest possible combination of curriculum entitlement, musical progression and opportunities for participation and performance.

Key Stage 4 – OCR GCSE Music (J536)

Course Aims

- Develop performing skills with technical control, expression, and interpretation.
- Compose and develop original musical ideas with creativity and coherence.
- Build knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts, and language.
- Explore a diverse range of musical genres, styles, and traditions.
- Develop listening and appraising skills through critical analysis.
- Use music technology appropriately in performance and composition.
- Strengthen creativity, independence, resilience, and confidence as musicians.
- Understand the relationship between performing, composing, and listening.

Assessment Overview

Component 1: Integrated Portfolio (30%)

- One solo performance on the student's chosen instrument or voice.
- One composition set to a brief chosen by the student.
- Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 2: Practical Component (30%)

- One ensemble performance
- One composition to an OCR-set brief released in Year 11.
- Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 3: Listening and Appraising (40%)

- 1 hour 30 minute written examination.
- Listening, analysis, musical knowledge, and notation skills.
- Based on the four Areas of Study:
 - The Concerto Through Time
 - Rhythms of the World
 - Film Music
 - Conventions of Pop
- Students analyse unfamiliar and studied music using appropriate musical terminology and contextual understanding.

Progression Opportunities

OCR GCSE Music provides an excellent foundation for A Level Music, Performing Arts qualifications, music technology courses, and a wide range of creative industries. Students also develop valuable transferable skills including communication, teamwork, creativity, problem-solving, independent learning, and self-confidence.

Key Stage 5 - Level 3 RSL Music Practitioners

- Vocational, industry-linked course preparing students for careers in the music industry.

- Focuses on modern popular music while developing skills across styles and contexts.
- Students:
 - Develop advanced performance techniques
 - Lead and participate in music-making activities
 - Explore a range of musical styles
 - Gain understanding of the music industry
 - Plan for careers in music
 - Complete an externally assessed unit involving rehearsal skills and live performance
 - Culminate in a large-scale performance project for real-world experience

At Ivybridge we believe that music should be accessible to everyone. A commitment to inclusion is integral and we recognise that every student deserves to attain successful outcomes. We are aware that certain students may require additional, often temporary, support and we work closely with the SENDCO to ensure that the music curriculum is entirely accessible to all SEN learners.

Part B: Extra-curricular Music

Music Tuition

- Instrumental/Singing/LAMDA lessons are available to all students (chargeable). PP students receive heavily subsidised lessons. Lessons are 20 or 30 minutes long and are either individual or in pairs.
- Kick Start Programme: Group tuition in “endangered” instruments such as the trombone and cello are provided for free for a term to allow students to see if they have an aptitude/desire.
- Jam Slam: Group tuition at a reduced cost of £4.50 per session (£20 for the whole year for PP) is provided for those students wanting to learn band instruments (electric/bass guitar, keyboard, drums, vocals).

Extra-Curricular and Enrichment Activities

- Open to all students:
 - Junior Musical Theatre Group
 - Pop Vocals
 - Busking Group
 - Jam Slam
 - Keyboard Club
 - Guitar Club
 - Junior Orchestra
- Advanced ensembles:
 - Senior Orchestra
 - Brass Ensemble
 - Flute Ensemble
 - String Ensemble
 - Wind Band
- Students also engage in:

- Solo and group performance
- Open Mic events
- Battle of the Bands
- Music technology projects (e.g. Charanga Yu Studio)

Facilities:

- Instruments can be loaned from the Music Department or from Devon Music Hub.
- Dedicated music classrooms and practice rooms are available every break, lunch and after College.
- Music technology suite is available for composing.
- Two recording studios are available for regular use.

As a Lead School of Music, we regularly work with children from the surrounding schools. We run Future Musicians for primary aged children and offer Music Centre on Wednesdays for all age groups.

Part C: Music Events

We are a thriving department and put on regular music events throughout the year, including but not restricted to:

Concerts

- Christmas Concert (December 25)
- RSL Gig (February 26)
- Spring Ensembles Concert (March 26)
- RSL Session Musician Gig (March 26)
- Collaborative concert with the Community Big Band (March 26)
- Rising Talent (June 26)
- Christmas Concert (December 26)

Productions

- 'Little Shop of Horrors' (January 26)
- 'Aladdin' (July 26)
- Midsummers Night Dream (February 27)

Festivals/Competitions

- Devon Music Hub Battle of the Bands (November 26)
 - Music For Youth festival (March 26)
- WeST Fest (June 26)
- Devon Music Hub Battle of the Bands (February 27)

Workshops

- Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra workshop (November 25) – funded by the College
- Gabrieli Roar – Concert at Exeter Cathedral (November 26)

Trips

- Royal Albert Hall, Plymouth Theatre Royal, Bristol Hippodrome, Plymouth Pavilions

Community

- Ivydene Nursing Home, Primary School Road Show, Watermark

Other

Regular performances in assemblies and at special events such as the Remembrance Service, Celebration Evenings, Open Evenings, Awards Evening, local primary schools etc.

In the future

Objectives for the current year:

- Maintain and enhance a broad, inclusive yet challenging curriculum across all Key Stages.
- Integrate music technology into teaching and composition projects at KS3.
- Increase student participation in music ensembles and extra-curricular activities.
- Create Co-Curricular Music opportunities in line with whole school development of Co-Curricular provision
- As a Lead School of Music, continue collaborating and sharing best practice with other schools in the area and working with Devon Music Hub.
- Participate in Choral opportunities provide by the Devon Music Hub and external organisations to promote Singing.

Short-term (1 year):

- Increase student involvement in existing ensembles and workshops.
- Create Co-Curricular Music opportunities in- line with whole school focus
- Participate in Choral opportunities provide by the Devon Music Hub and external organisations to promote Singing.
- Increase Y7&8 Music to twice a fortnight

Medium-term (3 years):

- Increase Year 9 lessons to twice a fortnight
- Update computer suits and overall technology for Music to successfully introduce composition and recording at KS3.

- Strengthen partnerships with local music organisations and community events.
- Establish an annual school music festival showcasing all ensembles and student work.

Long-term (5 years):

- Foster connections with professional musicians and music organisations for performance and career pathways.

Further information (optional)

Devon Music Education Hub – Lead School of Music

WEST Schools Trust – Performing Arts Festival