Music development plan summary: Lincroft Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Rachael Runnells
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Emma Appadoo
Name of local music hub	Bedford Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Bedford Music Co-operative

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.

The curriculum for music for each year group is published online.
Students at KS3 (Year 7 and 8) have a one-hour lesson of music per week. KS4 students (Years 9, 10 and 11) receive 5 one-hour lessons per fortnight, following the OCR syllabus, as per the entire Meridian Trust.
The KS3 curriculum is mostly informed by the Model Music Curriculum. It is ambitious and knowledge rich and aims to provide all students with the skills needed to succeed in a music qualification at KS4, even if they do not access peripatetic lessons.

Through a topic-based curriculum, in KS3 music lessons students learn to play and develop piano skills and the ukulele alongside playing tuned and un-tuned percussion. They investigate Folk Music of the British Isles and the development of the Blues, as well as Western Classical music, experimenting with DAWs too. They are introduced to the concept of composing in Year 7 and develop this in Year 8. Students are encouraged to listen to and appraise a wide variety of musical styles and genres and sing in

every lesson. Students perform, appraise, and develop their ability to engage in conversations about music using high level musical vocabulary that can be used orally and written. Students will learn to decipher musical notation and have multiple opportunities to perform their own and others' work both independently and in an ensemble.

At Lincroft Academy, children with SEND are supported to achieve in all subjects. In music, all students follow the same curriculum with adaptations as necessary. Students who mainly spend their time in the ARC (Lincroft's specialist Autism Resource Centre) will access mainstream (music) lessons when they are able. The music teacher works with the SEN team who support these students, and others with SEND, to ensure that they access as many of the learning opportunities as possible.

Learning to read musical notation can be difficult for all students, and particularly those with dyslexia. All students have access to scaffolds, including labelled keyboard diagrams to help with note finding. Students also have access to both scaffolds and music on a range of coloured paper, should they need it. Acronyms are used to help all students remember the letters of notes (FACE in the space, Every Green Bus Drives Fast).

Some students with physical disabilities may find practical tasks a particular challenge. In these cases, the tasks are adapted for the child based on their individual need, with careful consideration regarding the purpose of the task, ensuring the challenge and key learning aspects can still be achieved.

Lincroft Academy works closely with teachers from Bedford Music Co-operative, who provide instrumental tuition for guitar, vocal, strings, woodwind, piano and brass. Private teachers provide percussion tuition. All these teachers enter students for practical graded music exams when they are ready. We are also supported by, and work with, the Bedford Music Service.

Part B: Extra-curricular 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.

At Lincroft Academy, all students can attend a choir called Vocalise, and a Keyboard Skills group. Students do not pay for this, and they are all open to everyone. It is intended to try to develop some kind of instrumental ensemble to cater for the handful of students who play orchestral instruments.

Students are encouraged to use the Music department to rehearse their own student-led bands and complete individual practice at lunch times. Now that we have moved into our purpose-built department, many more students are able to and do use the facilities. The new practice rooms enable more students to rehearse in small groups,

before school, during lunchtime and after school, which will in turn lead to more performance opportunities to the wider school community.

Teachers from Bedford Music Co-operative provide one-to-one instrumental tuition for guitar, cello, bass, violin, flute, clarinet, piano, voice and percussion. A private teacher provides percussion tuition. Students in receipt of pupil premium funding receive a subsidy for all these lessons to enable equal opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Through Bedford Music Service, students can access a variety of different musical groups, such as Steel Pan Academy, Digital Beats DJ-ing skills, Vocal Beats, Creative Beats and Rock School. In addition to these, there are the more traditional strings, wind and jazz band, North Bedfordshire Youth Choir and North Bedfordshire Youth Orchestra.

In addition, we are currently rehearsing for our annual school production, Newsies JR, which is being performed in September. The production is open to all students, regardless of previous experience. We plan to run another musical for just KS3 students in the summer term.

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.

Alongside the annual school production (Newsies JR in November 2026), there is a Winter Showcase, Academy Carol Service (held in the local church), Spring and Summer Concerts. In addition to the concerts, students also perform to entertain local residents who are invited to tea parties at Christmas and in the Spring. The Vocalise ensemble (open to all students in every year group) visits care homes in the local area around Christmas time. Year 9 and 10 GCSE Music students attend the BrightSparks conference/concert in London in November and we take part in Voice in a Million in March, to help raise the profile of the enjoyment derived from singing, across the whole school cohort. The Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama will also give performers an opportunity to perform outside of school in a competition which is friendly and supportive, designed to give constructive feedback to improve performance technique.

At the end of every half term, students perform in assemblies – this was initially students in GCSE Music groups, but it is hoped that as these are becoming an expectation every time, students outside of GCSE Music groups will participate. Tea-time recitals are also being planned to give all students who receive instrumental lessons but may not yet be ready to participate in an ensemble or take a grade, the opportunity to perform and build their confidence within their performance skills.

Trips to appropriate concerts, either locally or in London or Birmingham are organised for GCSE and prospective GSCE Music students to give them the opportunity to experience high class live music first hand. Trips to see musicals, both locally and in London are also planned in collaboration with the Drama and Dance teams within the Performing Arts faculty.

In the future

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

As we have just moved into the brand-new Music department, complete with an IT suite and recording studio, the KS3 curriculum is slowly being changed at KS3 to include units of work in which students can use DAWs to produce/sequence their own music in school, like they can already access at home or on their phones. At KS4, this will enable students who are interested in using DAW for their composition coursework to pursue this option and be able to use the technology appropriately in school where it can be monitored effectively.

There is also a recording studio in the new Music department. It is hoped that alongside it being used for recording GCSE Music performances, other subjects such as Drama and English will be able to use it within their curriculum, as well as other musicians within the school.

It is very much hoped that an ensemble for the few instrumentalists will take off and encourage other students to take part. It is our ambition to increase the number of students who are accessing peripatetic lessons on orchestral instruments and extra-curricular ensembles. As last year, we hope to host the North Bedfordshire Youth Chamber Orchestra, again, which will offer Year 7, Year 8, all GCSE Music students and all students who receive instrumental tuition the amazing opportunity to hear students their own age performing in an orchestra in our own school.

Students will continue to have the opportunity to perform at the start of assemblies and hopefully visit our local feeder schools. Tea-time recitals are also being planned to give all students who receive instrumental lessons but may not yet be ready to participate in an ensemble or take a grade, the opportunity to perform and build their confidence within their own performance skills.

LINCROFT ACADEMY

Meridian Trust

Further information (optional)

For more information about accessing music lessons at Lincroft Academy please email Mrs Runnells, Curriculum Leader for Music: RRunnells@lincroft.academy

You may also wish to visit the website of the Bedford Music Co-operative, where you can sign up for instrumental lessons. www.bedsmusic.coop Should you wish to sign up for vocal or percussion lessons, please email Mrs Runnells directly.

We also work with Bedford Music Service www.bedfordmusic.org.uk