

Music development plan summary: Honiton Community College

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24.

Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account 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

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	March 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	January 2027
Name of the school music lead	David Turner
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Kelly Knight
Name of local music hub	Devon Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils 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 pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' 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 pupils can achieve.

Curriculum

The music curriculum at Honiton Community College has been completely rewritten since June 2025 and relaunched in September 2025. It is designed to be broad and wide ranging to support the development of knowledge and skills in the subject. The curriculum aims to ensure it builds on progress of knowledge and skills secured at Key Stage 2 and provide firm foundations for students who carry their study of Music into Key Stage 4 and beyond.

The DFE's Model Music Curriculum has been consulted to help create the new music curriculum for Honiton Community College. Students have a wide range of experiences ensuring development of their performing, listening, composing and vocals skills along with expanding their knowledge of a broad and wide range of musical styles from the Renaissance Period to present day.

The core musical skills developed through the curriculum model are:

- Performing
- Composing
- Listening
- Singing

Students develop their performance and composition skills through set topics within the curriculum and use music notation to help prepare and deliver performances or musical ideas for composition.

The new curriculum is designed to be engaging, comprehensive and inclusive. Students receive a termly booklet for each cycle of learning. Each lesson starts with a '*Do Now*' knowledge retrieval task including music notation recognition tasks followed by a '*Listening Task*'. Performing, composing and singing opportunities are developed based on the focus for each lesson. Each lesson concludes with a '*Consolidation Task*'.

Students use a wide range of instruments at Honiton Community College including voice, keyboards, acoustic and electric guitar, bass guitar, xylophones, glockenspiels, orchestral instruments, ukulele and unique world music instruments such as the Balalaika and Taiko drums. Students have regular opportunities to take part in whole class ensemble performances and small group performances through the cycle topics.

The new curriculum also promotes and develops the use of music technology, with Honiton Music Department using the Devon Music Education Hub supported online '*Secondary Music Suite*'. This includes *Charanga*, *Focus on Sound*, *Auralia*, *Musition* and *OGEN+* to support student skills and knowledge development. The College uses *YuStudio*, a digital audio workstation (DAW) which helps students develop the ability to record and compose music using a computer in progressive way.

The Music Department currently have 20 iMacs which are used by students however, 26 new PC computers will be introduced during the Spring Term 2026 to replace the existing iMacs and will be set up as workstations with keyboards so students can capture their work and build up a portfolio of performance and composition evidence on Yumu within Charanga. 2 iMacs out of the 20 will remain to support the running of the two recording studio facilities and will have additional DAWs such as Sibelius, Logic and GarageBand.

Honiton Community College's 5 -year Music learning journey!



5 year Learning Journey: **Music**



Since September 2025, Honiton Community College has reinstated a GCSE curriculum and uses the OCR specification.

The College has also offered specialist music interventions for students struggling to engage in school, including teaching them how to play the drum kit and teaching them basic guitar.

Assessment and Feedback

Feedback is given to all students' mid cycle on their development of **performance and composition skills**. Students use green pen in their work once feedback is given.

Feedback is given on knowledge retrieval each lesson through the '**Do Now**' task.

Feedback is given on Listening skills each lesson through the '**Listening**' task.

Mid Cycle feedback of practical work is given during Week 6 of each cycle.

Students are taught music notation in line with the Model Music Curriculum for Key Stage 3 recommendations and are checked for understanding of notation using Show Me Boards. This includes treble and bass clef along with note values.

There is an assessment week at the end of each cycle where students are assessed on their performance and composition skills based on the topic they have completed along with their retention of knowledge from the topic studied. This is followed by a Super Teach week where any misconceptions are addressed from the outcomes of the assessment.

Partnerships

The Music Department continues to increase its partnership work as follows:

Devon Music Hub – the Head of CreATE/Music Teacher is in regular communication with the Devon Music Hub coordinator for East Devon and the following collaborations are taking place:

- The College has launched The Honiton Music Centre in September 2025. This provides all youngsters within the Honiton community of Primary and Secondary age to learn an orchestral instrument for £4 a week. This includes a 30-minute group instrument lesson, a 30-minute musicianship skills lesson and a 30-minute Ensemble session weekly. The College coordinates the Centre and works with local Primary schools to encourage students to start learning music early on. The Centre is supported financially by the DFE Arts Council England and the Devon Music Education Hub. The Devon Music Education Hub have also supported the College with the annual loan over orchestral instruments to support the Music Centre.
- The College take part in the Devon Battle of the Bands competition each February.
- The College will again be hosting vocal coaches from the Devon Youth Choir during either the Spring or Summer Term 2026 to support the developing of

singing in the College. HCC Singing Group has rapidly grown since September 2025 and now has around 30 students who rehearse weekly during term time.

- Musicians from the College take part in the Devon County Show event in May 2026 in conjunction with the Devon Music Education Hub and will perform on their stand.
- The College continues to develop links with the Honiton Town Band with an aim to increase take up of brass instruments at the College.
- The College has successfully applied for MEG funding through the Devon Music Hub to support further development of musical opportunities at the college.
- The College has organised a workshop for the Taiko Drumming group delivered by UK Taiko Specialist in November 2025.
- The College Music Lead works in collaboration with the Trust Music Lead to develop music provision across Trust schools.

The College has also developed other partnerships including:

Local Primary schools – The Head of CreATE has met with several music leads from local primary schools and provides workshop opportunities to promote the Honiton Music Centre. An example with a visit to Upottery Primary School in November 25 by the Head of CreATE and Woodwind teacher at the Honiton Music Centre to deliver a interactive presentation about orchestral instruments to the whole school.

Support from the local **Jack Riley Trust** who financially help several students to receive instrumental lessons. They also financially support the Singing Group, enabling HCC's singing teacher to take the weekly rehearsals.

The Beehive Arts Centre in Honiton support the Music Department with technical aspects of running the Recording Studios and have also loaned a mixing desk and donated a Drum Kit to the College. They also provide opportunities for students to see live musical performances at the Centre.

Post 16 Colleges – (Exeter College and Ricard Huish College in Taunton). The Head of CreATE has established links with both College's and is developing opportunities to collaborate with both with the aim to inspire students to take their music studies beyond Key Stage 4.

East Devon Landscapes and the **Honiton Memory Café** worked collaboratively with the Music Department in October 2025, allowing students in Year 8 to take part in the '*Work of Giants*' project, creating music and art, facilitated by local immersive theatre company 'Four of Swords' and locally renowned Folk Musician Jim Causley, culminated in a 12-minute film and exhibition of the work at Honiton's Thelma Hulbert Gallery.

The Music Department collaborates with the **Guildhall Young Musicians Programme** in Taunton and currently has two Key Stage 4 students who benefit through bursaries from the programme on Saturday mornings during term time. Visiting performers

perform at the school through this collaboration such as a Piano Trio from the Guildhall in June 2025, exposing students to Baroque, Classical and Romantic chamber music.

Qualifications

The College has now introduced GCSE Music again since September 2025. There are currently 2 Year 11 students studying for the qualification and 25 students in Year 10. Initial numbers in February 2026 indicate there are a number of students expressing interest in studying music at GCSE in Year 10 from September 2026.

Several students have gained instrumental Grades through peripatetic music lessons during this academic year (2025 to 2026) which are celebrated through the 'Musician of the Week' award introduced last year.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils 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.

Music Tuition

The College is extremely proud of its rapidly expanding instrumental lesson provision and Enrichment programme. Currently, peripatetic music lessons take place for voice, drum kit, guitar and piano/keyboard during school hours. Since January 2025, instrument tuition has over doubled with around 50 students now receiving instrument tuition at the College.

Following the strategy to expand instrument tuition for strings, brass and woodwind, the launch of the Honiton Music Centre after school on a Wednesday has ensured a further 12 students at HCC are receiving instrumental lessons in orchestral instruments ranging from flute, trombone, alto saxophone violin and cello.

The Policy for Instrumental lessons has been rewritten in March 2025 and is regularly reviewed and designed to ensure any student can access instrumental lessons.

Music Ambassadors

Honiton Community College now have over ten Music Ambassadors who support the Head of CreATE in promoting music in the school. They help with the running of the Honiton Music Centre and events. Some Key Stage 4 students are Senior Ambassadors.

Enrichment provision for music

The College now has a vibrant and uniquely diverse music enrichment offer including:

- House Band
- Singing Group
- Balalaika Ensemble
- Song Writing Group
- Japanese Taiko Drumming Ensemble
- Rock School

The Head of CreATE/Music Teacher is one of the UK's few Russian Folk Music specialist and is also trained in Japanese Taiko Drumming, giving students unique enrichment opportunities to learn these instruments.

The College has three well resources **practice rooms** and a **Recording Studio live room** which are used by students during break and lunchtimes through a booking system.

The Music Department is vibrant and heavily used by students at these times. Every practice room, the recording studio and two classrooms are set up in band configuration with an electric guitar, bass guitar and drum kit in each room. The Music Department has expanded its range of guitars to just under 60 and have 7 Drum Kits in total.

In September 2025, the **Communal Piano** was introduced in the entrance area to the Hembury Building which houses the Music Department. This means any student is welcome at break and lunch to use the piano to perform or create music. This has proved incredibly popular with students. A range of music is provided at the piano for students to use, including scores of music they are learning in the classroom.

The College offers a termly performance to all music students. Participation levels from the Spring Term concert in April 2025 to the Autumn Term concert in December 2025 doubled.

Instrument offer, charging and remissions information

The College supports instrumental tuition through subsidising lesson costs on an individual basis for students eligible for Pupil Premium by up to 20%. Instrument hire through the Devon Music Hub is also subsidised for students eligible for Pupil Premium.

The College is also supported by the Devon Music Education Hub with termly applications for the Bursary Scheme to support the cost of instrumental lessons.

Children in Care are also eligible for free music tuition lessons and instrument hire in conjunction with the Devon Virtual School and Devon Music Hub.

The College Instrument Tuition Policy was re-written in March 2025 by the Head of CreATE, designed to give the widest opportunity with support from partners to help

students access music tuition, including the loan of instruments through the Devon Music Education Hub.

The instrument offer has expanded since September 2025 with the introduction of the Honiton Music Centre offering a wide range of orchestral instruments to students at the College and within the learning community of Primary and Secondary school age.

Opportunities to apply for instrumental lessons are regularly included in the Principal Post and Newsletters home to parents. The College has made it as straight forward as possible for parents/carers to sign up for lessons through the following link and advert for the Honiton Music Centre.



<https://forms.office.com/e/n8AJsdJSyb>



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.

Musical Experiences and Performances

The College has increased rapidly its opportunities for musical experiences. It staged a Carol Service for Key Stage 3 in December 2025 at St Pauls Church in Honiton, giving

all students at Key Stage 3 the opportunity to sing carols and Christmas songs, accompanied by the student House Band and Singing Group.

The College has started to introduce music more regularly to assemblies in Year 7, thereby increasing exposure to performances and will launch an assembly singing programme fully for September 2026 using resources from the BBC 'Get Singing' incentive launched in February 2026.

The College provides a concert each term to showcase and exhibit student performances both through the College ensembles and from performances prepared through the peripatetic lessons.

Students are given opportunities to attend external performances and concerts.

As the College ensembles develop, opportunity will be given to take part in the National Festival of Music for Youth. The College has now entered into the Devon Battle of the Bands competition and is due to perform at the Devon County Show.

The College is organising several workshops with external providers during the Spring and Summer Term 2026, including Devon Youth Choir coaches working with our singers.

In the future

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

Future planning and improvements to Music provision at Honiton Community College

Continuation of all students at Key Stage 3 receive an hour a week timetabled music tuition.

Continuation of all Key Stage 4 students studying music GCSE to receive 5 hours of lessons a fortnight.

- Access to lessons across a range of instruments and voice**

From September 2025, the newly launched curriculum gives opportunity to sing and use a range of instruments on a regular basis as part of the planned curriculum model and whole class ensemble teaching.

- A school choir and/or vocal ensemble**

A singing group was introduced in January 2025 and is now well established with around 30 students. There is a planned workshop for all singers later this academic

year to promote the development of singing and the singing group in school delivered by coaches of the Devon Youth Choir. Students will also be given opportunity to join the Ted Wragg Choir, our Trust choir.

- **A school ensemble/band/group**

A House Band was formed in September 2024 and has already performed to all students in the school. Students are encouraged to join the band, and music is arranged so students of all abilities can take part.

Rock School was launched in September 2025 and is designed to coach students in developing their own band by teaching them guitar bass and drum popular rock music and songs.

- **Space for rehearsals and individual practice**

Honiton Community College has high quality music facilities which include two teaching classrooms (including 26 PC computers and 2 iMacs), 3 Practice Rooms, 2 Recording Studio and further music editing space. Students also have access to a large rehearsal space called the Black Box and a Drama Hall. Further focus will be on updating the Drama Hall Sound and Lighting facilities to support future concerts.

- **A termly school performance**

The College will continue to perform at least one performance a term and have staged three concerts and Carol Services since April 2025.

- **Opportunities to enjoy a live music performance at least once a year**

The College will continue to bring live performances in for all students to experience at least once a year. In 2025 to 2026, we will have Richard Hish 6th Form College in Taunton visiting with their Band on a Trailer tour.

Other further developments for 2025 to 2027

- Continue to develop the curriculum model, fully evaluating the new curriculum and establish greater cross curricular links with other subjects, particularly in the CreATE Department.
- Establish an instrument loan system for guitars
- Greater collaboration with local Primary Schools
- Introduce a singing programme into assemblies at Key Stage 3
- Establish music workstations in the Music classroom with computers and keyboard enabled to record classwork and save it under student profiles in Charanga.

- Introduce keyboard and guitar apps to be used at music workstations to support the learning of these instruments.
- Further musical collaboration with other secondary schools.
- Expand the Honiton Music Centre to include other instruments.
- Introduce a musical for academic year 2026 to 2027.
- Upgrade lighting and sound in the Drama Hall.
- Expand range of percussion to include a Samba kit and Djembe drums

Outcomes of other future developments from the 2024 to 2025 Development Plan

Application to become a Music Centre from September 2025	Achieved
Complete revision of the Music Curriculum, including introduction of the OCR specification GCSE in September 2025	Achieved
Offering GCSE Music from Summer Term 2025 to current Year 10's who originally opted to take the subject in the Year 9 Options process	Achieved
Application to become a Lead School for Music – made in March 2025	Application unsuccessful
Revise provision for music technology to include Chromebooks for greater access to using IT	Achieved
Expand instrumental tuition to include more students learning string, woodwind and brass instruments through a clear strategy	Achieved
Continue to strengthen links with the Trust Schools, local Primary Schools and local community	Achieved
Increase performances in assemblies	Achieved
Widen opportunities for visiting performances and students going to live performances and concerts out of school	Achieved
Strength the cross-curricular linkage between subjects within CreATE	Ongoing
Application to become a Music Centre from September 2025	Achieved