

THE RAMSEY ACADEMY, HALSTEAD

MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN SUMMARY

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 – 2027
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Chris Rayner
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Essex
Name of other music education organisations(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

KS3

Students in KS3 receive 2 hours of music lessons over a two-week timetable. Music lessons are informed by the model music curriculum cited by the National Curriculum and provides opportunities for creative and collaborative work through

- Singing
- Listening
- Composing
- Instrumental Performance

As well as singing regularly, students have the opportunity to try a range of different instruments in lessons, including – piano/keyboard, guitar, ukulele and percussion.

Different lessons provide different collaborative experiences

- Whole class ensembles
- Small group work
- Working in pairs
- Solo work

Years 7, 8 and 9 – Half termly projects progressing through the following:

	HT 1	HT 2	HT 3	HT 4	HT 5	HT 6
Year 7	Arriba	Samba	Keyboard Skills	Ukulele Skills	Animal Music	Animal Music 2
Year 8	Programme Music	The Blues	Samba	Cover Songs	Live Sounds	Live Sounds 2
Year 9	Folk Music	Film Music	Cover Songs 2	Samba	Pachelbel Remix	Pachelbel Remix 2

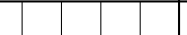
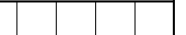
KS4

Students in KS4 have 5 hours of music lessons over a two-week timetable and work towards a GCSE qualification using the OCR syllabus.

During the GCSE course they get the opportunity to

- Develop performing skills individually and in groups to communicate musically with fluency and control of the resources used.
- Develop composing skills to organise musical ideas and make use of appropriate resources.
- Recognise links between the integrated activities of performing, composing and appraising and how this informs the development of music.
- Broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity.
- Develop knowledge, understanding and skills needed to communicate effectively as musicians.
- Develop awareness of a variety of instruments, styles and approaches to performing and composing.
- Develop awareness of music technologies and their use in the creation and presentation of music.
- Recognise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and develop some awareness of musica chronology.
- Develop as effective and independent learners with enquiring minds.
- Reflect upon and evaluate their own and others' music.
- Engage with and appreciate the diverse heritage of music, in order to promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural development.

Year 10 and 11 – Half term focus, progressing through the following subject areas

	HT 1	HT 2	HT 3	HT 4	HT 5	HT 6
Year 10	Elements of Music	AoS 2 - Pop Music	AoS 4 - Film Music	AoS 4 - Film Music	AoS 3 - World Music	AoS 3 - World Music
						
Year 11	AoS 1 - The Concerto	AoS 1 - The Concerto	AoS 2 & 4 Revision	AoS 1 & 3 Revision	Revision	
						

(Composition all year round until the end of Year 11 Half Term 4)

Part B: Co-curricular Music

Instrumental Tuition

Students at The Ramsey Academy get the opportunity to learn a range of instruments from piano, guitar and drums to woodwind, brass and strings. Instrumental tuition is provided by the Essex Music Hub and individual music lessons take place during the school day and are taught by specialist music tutors. To register a child with the Essex Music Hub please use the link below:
[Registration - Essex Music Service](#)

The Essex Music Hub provide 30 lessons throughout the academic year. The termly charges are available on their website.

Families entitled to Pupil Premium Grant/Free School Meals support can apply for a 50% discount via the Essex Music Hub. There are also free 15-minute lessons for Looked After Children, Adopted Children and those who have had contact with Social Care. You can register for tuition discounts using the link below:

[Financial assistance - Essex Music Service](#)

If you do not own an instrument, low-cost instrument hire is available for all Essex children. Please see the link below:

[Hire an instrument - Essex Music Service](#)

Ensembles, Clubs and Activities

There is a full and varied programme of extra-curricular musical clubs and activities at The Ramsey Academy.

All students are welcome to get involved with the whole school musical to be performed in the spring term.

There are many roles including principal roles in the cast, chorus members, musicians, technical jobs like sound and lighting, and backstage supporting roles too.

Our school choir and school band rehearses every week, open to all staff and students.

There are multiple music clubs on the enrichment timetable run by the department weekly for any student to rehearse and learn new pieces or have the opportunity to use music technology and a range of instruments.

There are also extra enrichment and intervention sessions for GCSE students to attend if they want to. Practise rooms are available for students to book at lunchtime or after school and these are used every day by student bands, GCSE students and soloists who want extra practise.

Part C: Musical Experiences

This is all about the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

Students get the opportunity to perform throughout the year:

- Large whole-school musical planned for the Spring term.
- Performing Arts evening showcases.
- Small ensembles perform at school events like open evenings and awards evenings.
- Students perform at the school carol service.

In the Future

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

- We are always working to increase the numbers of students participating in musical activities, learning an instrument and performing in concerts and shows. There are several initiatives planned to help achieve this goal.
- A winter music showcase and a spring showcase every year in the school calendar.
- Visiting professionals and performers giving workshops and master classes.
- Work with feeder primary schools; visiting with groups and ensembles and providing a music club at school for talented Year 5 and 6 pupils.