Music development plan summary:
Walton High School

All schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2026-27.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the Head of Music	Lisa Everill
Name of school leadership line manager for music	Katie Curtis
Name of local music hub	Entrust Music Service, Staffordshire

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.

Below is a link to the curriculum overview for Walton High School:

https://waltonstaffs.com/our-curriculum/

Key Stage 3 Music:

Year 7 = 1x50 minute lesson per week.

Year 8 = 1x50 minute lesson per week.

Year 9 = 1x50 minute lesson per week.

At KS3, the aim is to give students the ability to progress in their musical ability whether they choose GCSE or not. The focuses of KS3 music are:

- Practical Skills – Solo Performance, Group Performance and Composition Tasks. Across the 3 years, all students learn the keyboard and ukulele. Students will also partake in Band work and singing activities. There is a focus on confidence through performing, communication skills, time management and creativity.
- Appraisal Skills – Contextual understanding, Musical features, Key words, Listening skills.
- Technology – Students in KS3 begin to compose on composition software such as BandLab Education, Sibelius & MuseScore.

Key Stage 4 Music:

KS4 are offered Music as an optional subject where they study towards the Edexcel GCSE Qualification.

All students have the option to choose GCSE Music, there are no entry requirements but students are made aware of the performance element beforehand.

Year 10 & 11 = 3x50 minute lessons per week.

At KS4, students focus on the instrument of their choice, often taking instrumental lessons within school or outside of school.

There are currently 66 students studying GCSE Music.

At KS4, The Edexcel GCSE is split into 3 sections:

- Performance Skills – 30% of the course. Students progress in their solo and ensemble ability within performance, working on confidence and developing on their chosen instrument.
- Compositional Skills – 30% of the course. Students learn to compose using music technology and/or live song writing both following a brief and also having the freedom to write creatively without a brief.

- Appraisal Skills – 40% of the course. Contextual understanding, Musical features, Key words, Listening skills.

Key Stage 5 Music:

KS5 are offered Music as an optional subject. The current year 13 students are studying towards the Edexcel A Level Qualification. The current year 12 students are studying towards Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate in Music Performance.

Year 12 & 13 = 6x50 minute lessons per week.

At KS5, students focus on the instrument of their choice and are offered free tuition on their first choice of instrument within school.

There are currently 10 students in KS5 music, across the 2 year groups.

At KS5, The Edexcel A-Level is split into 3 sections:

- Performance Skills – 30% of the course. Students progress in their solo ability within performance, working on confidence and developing on their chosen instrument. Students work towards a 8-10 minute recital in year 13.
- Compositional Skills – 30% of the course. Students learn to compose using music technology and/or live song writing both following a brief and also having the freedom to write creatively without a brief. Students also learn to arrange a piece of music based or complete a Bach Chorale which they complete in a 6-hour exam during year 13.
- Appraisal Skills – 40% of the course. Contextual understanding, Musical features, Key words, Listening skills.

At KS5, The Level 3 Extended Certificate is split into units, with all students completing units 1, 2 & 3, alongside 1 further unit of their choice:

- Unit 1 – Practical Music Theory and Harmony
- Unit 2 – Professional Practice in the Music Industry
- Unit 3 – Ensemble Music Performance
- Unit 4 – Composing Music
- Unit 5 – Music Performance Session Styles
- Unit 6 – Solo Performance
- Unit 7 – Improvising Music

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.

Extra-curricular and Music Tuition plays a large part in the daily life of the Music Department at Walton High School. Below is a list of information regarding the current extra-curricular and tuition offering.

Music Tuition

- Music tuition is offered to all students across years 7-13.
- Lessons are offered at £280 per year. Students receiving free school meals are offered their lessons at a reduced cost of £100 per academic year. KS5 Music students are given tuition on their first instrument for free. Entrust offer support for those families who need it, via an application to FOSYM, alongside offering free lessons to LAC students.
- Tuition ranges from solo lessons, paired lessons and group lessons. This is dependent on ability and instrument.
- Tuition is taught by visiting teachers from Entrust Music Service.
- Tuition is available on Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Drum Kit, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Voice, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Piano, Keyboard.
- All students are offered the choice to work towards qualifications from either ABRSM, Rockschool or Trinity (dependant on instrument), but have the choice as to whether they wish to pursue this route.

Entrust Music Service Extra Curricular

Entrust Music Service provide numerous extra musical groups that students can get involved in outside of school time and these are advertised by the visiting teachers to their pupils as well as posters next to the peripatetic timetables in the department. Students within our school are offered the chance to attend both the Stafford and Cannock extra-curricular groups.

In School Extra-curricular

Students have the option to get involved in numerous extra-curricular clubs throughout the year in relation to music and/ or drama.

September – December:

- Orchestra
- Rock Band
- Senior Rock Band
- Choir
- Flute Choir
- Woodwind Ensemble
- Drama Club

January – March:

- Flute Choir
- Clarinet Ensemble
- Choir
- Pyramid Concert - Band
- School Production Lead Rehearsals
- School Production Full Cast Rehearsals
- School Production Band Rehearsals

March – July:

- Flute Choir
- Clarinet Ensemble
- School Production Dance
- School Production Vocals
- School Production Band
- School Production Full Cast Rehearsals

All year:

Students also have the option to practice individually or in small groups using the department practice rooms at breaktime and lunchtime on various days, subject to staff permission. GCSE and sixth form students often utilise these rooms to practice during their free periods or lunchtime to prepare for exams and/ or the coursework element of their course.

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.

Lesson Time

Within KS3-5 lessons, students are encouraged to perform to each other regularly and often perform their practical tasks as the assessment at the end of the topic in front of the rest of the class. Students with SEN and SEMH are offered the chance where necessary to perform separately for their assessment.

Local Events

In recent years, we have been invited by local villages to perform for their local events. In the past, small groups of students have performed for events such as The Queen's Jubilee and The King's Coronation alongside local performances in 'Stafford's Gotta Sing'.

School Planned Events

Thursday 8th October – Year 6 Open Evening

- Students volunteer to perform continuously throughout the evening on a rotation to showcase the department to potential year 6 students and parents.

Wednesday 11th November – Remembrance Day

- Walton Brass Players
- Supported by the visiting Entrust Brass teacher
- Planned in conjunction with the History Department

Wednesday 18th November – Theatre Trip

- Year 11 Music and Year 11 Drama students, KS5 Music & Drama Students
- Regent Theatre, Stoke on Trent

Tuesday 15th December – Year 13 Awards Evening

- Students volunteer to perform whilst parents and ex students are arriving to receive their GCSE certificates and awards.

Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Concert

- Year 7-13 students
- All extra-curricular clubs perform alongside smaller group pieces arranged in the run up by students and some solo performances from students in years 7-13
- Tickets are sold to parents via ParentPay – prices of tickets are kept cheap to allow parents to afford to attend no matter their situation

16th & 17th March – Annual Pyramid Choir Concert with feeder schools

- Year 7-13 students
- Choir concert in conjunction with Y3-6 students from the local feeder schools
- Live band made up of Walton students and department staff
- 2 joint rehearsals in the run up with all schools together – 11th February and 17th March

Wednesday 30th June & Thursday 1st July – School Production

- Year 7-13 students
- Auditions and Rehearsals from January until June at lunchtime and weekly full cast after school rehearsals
- Prepared in conjunction with the Drama Department
- Live Band made up of Walton students

Thursday 8th July – Woodwind Extravaganza

- Year 7-13 students
- Workshop and concert including all woodwind players from Walton and local feeder schools
- Supported by Entrust Music Service staff

In the future

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

- Continue to encourage attendance at extra-curricular
- Continue to enthuse students regarding music making in and out of school
- Encourage students who show enthusiasm to look into music tuition
- Continue the growth of GCSE music to encourage students to continue to develop their musical ability past KS3.