

# Music Development Plan: Haberdashers' Abraham Darby

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 - 2025
Date this summary was published	09/24
Date this summary will be reviewed	06/25
Name of the school music lead	Miss Rachel Morton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr David Hughes
Name of local music hub	N/A
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

[national plan for music education:](#)

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.

## **What do we study?**

Haberdashers' Abraham Darby has a robust, dynamic, culturally rich, and diverse curriculum, which is largely based on, and uses elements of, the model curriculum for music 2021.

[KS3 topic summaries are located here](#)

[KS4 learning journeys are located here](#)

[KS5 curriculum information are located here](#)

## **Music-related accommodation**

>Rehearsal space including G1 Band rehearsal/band room

>8 x individual practice/rehearsal rooms

>Auditorium

>Studio

>2 x classrooms, including a suite of updated (2024) MacBooks

## **How much curriculum time to pupils have?**

Our school offers timetabled music lessons equating to at least one hour each week for pupils in KS3 (Y7 – Y9). At KS4 pupils are allocated five x 60-minute lessons per fortnight. At KS5 pupils are allocated 9 x 60-minute lessons per fortnight.

## **Music qualifications that our pupils can achieve**

KS4 pupils are studying for a GCSE in Music (Edexcel/Pearson).

KS5 pupils are studying for an A2 Level in Music (Edexcel/Pearson).

Pupils who take advantage of our peripatetic lessons have the opportunity to study for Trinity graded exams. We are a recognised centre for Trinity Music College, London and there are three times annually where students can be entered for practical and theoretical graded exams.

There are numerous opportunities for all students at Haberdashers' Abraham Darby School. The school has 13 peripatetic teachers visiting the school every week offering lessons on a wide range of instruments including Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, Guitar (6 string electric and acoustic), Bass Guitar, Voice, and Piano/keyboard. The school has recently started whole class brass teaching with Years 7 & 8.

## 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.

Instrumental lessons and the instruments we offer are numerous. Most woodwind, brass, tuned & untuned percussion, drum kit, electric guitar, bass guitar, piano & keyboard and singing. Every attempt is made to ensure ALL students are provided with the opportunity of learning an instrument or involving themselves in choir. This also includes pupil premium, SEND as well as the more able students. Instrumental staff provide new students with a demonstration of all instruments and explanation of musical opportunities available to them at the beginning of each academic year.

Students join ensembles once they are at the necessary ability level. For the senior ensembles students must audition and this will determine if the student is ready for entrance into the school's senior ensembles.

Haberdashers' Abraham Darby currently employs 13 peripatetic teachers who provide lessons on a wide range of musical instruments. Including all Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, Guitar (Bass and 6 string electric), Voice and Piano/Keyboard. These sessions are delivered on an individual basis for 20-30 minutes per lesson. We also offer small group sessions, especially for beginners. The school has also more recently started whole class brass with some year 7 & 8 classes teaching mainly trumpet and trombone. These lessons are heavily subsidised by the school and each pupil is only required to pay a fee of £20 to cover lessons and instrument hire per academic year.

We provide FREE brass and woodwind lessons to pupils in years 4,5 & 6 at local feeder primary school Woodlands on a weekly basis for free and when pupils are at the appropriate standard, they are invited to join the 'Mega band', which is a starter training band.

Our school has a choir which rehearses weekly and performs in school productions and events.

There are a substantial number of ensembles that pupils can join outside the normal music curriculum. These include wind bands: Mega Band (entry, grade 1), Friday Band (intermediate grade 3), Showband (senior grade 4 & above). Brass bands: CZ band (entry level grade 1) and Brass Band (senior level grade 4). Jazz Orchestras: Junior Jazz Band (intermediate level grade 3) and Senior Jazz Band (senior level grade 5). Choir, open to all abilities and levels. Students are encouraged to enter for Trinity Music College London examinations at the end of each term. This is essentially how we measure instrumental progress as well as Teacher Assessed reports issued at the end of each academic year. The school also offers its own initial assessment whereby learners must

perform several pieces, scales & arpeggios, sight reading and answer some aural questions. The results are presented as pass, merit, or distinction.

The school has a considerable number of individual practice rooms available for all students to book and use to practice in. These rooms are readily available before, during and after the school day.

### **Partnerships**

The school has a number of partnerships with local as well as national organisations which support the music provision at the school. For example, our local first section brass band Jackfield Brass Band from Ironbridge and the world-famous Tredegar Town Brass Band in South Wales have visited the school on numerous occasions and provided students with workshops before treating audiences to joint concerts.

Other partnerships with external organisations supporting musical opportunities include NCBF (National Concert Band Festival), MFY (Music for Youth), Great North Big Band Competition, & WMC (World Music Contest in Kerkrade, Holland.), Llangollen International Eisteddfod, Bands of the Scots Guards, Band of the Welsh Guards, Trinity College London, Rotary, Telford & Wrekin Council, The Haberdashers' Company.

## **Part C: Musical events/performances & 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.

The musical opportunities available to all pupils at Haberdashers' Abraham Darby are numerous and involve performing at local, regional, national, and international levels. Partnerships with outside organisations supporting musical opportunities include NCBF (National Concert Band Festival), MFY (Music for Youth), Great North Big Band Competition, & WMC (World Music Contest in Kerkrade, Holland.), Llangollen International Eisteddfod, Bands of the Scots Guards, Band of the Welsh Guards, Trinity College London, Rotary and Telford & Wrekin Council.

Regular musical events include: three end of term concerts per year; Senior jazz band performing in the Great North Big Band Festival; Showband, Senior & Junior Jazz bands performing in the National Concert Band Festival of Great Britain; Showband and Senior Jazz Band performing in National Festival of Music for Youth; Showband performing at Llangollen International Eisteddfod; joint concerts with national award winning brass bands; performances and workshops with the armed forces; performing in local churches and at charity events; Performing at civic events e.g. Showband performing at Telford & Wrekin Council's annual Civic Remembrance & Carol services; School production performances for general public and primary pupils; performances in assembly.

We have also performed on national stages such as at the Royal Northern College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, and Royal Albert Hall in recent years.

For all musical performances, a wide range of students from ALL year groups (Y7 -Y 13) are involved. The senior bands include students from Y9 to Y13, but Friday Band regularly performs at a local primary school where students from the primary school who are having lessons provided by visiting peripatetic teachers will join the band for an afternoon performance.

## **In the future**

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years to improve its existing curriculum and experiences

At Haberdashers' Abraham Darby we strive to continue to provide music provision of the the highest quality and experience for our students. We are always looking for ways to improve music provision and enhance the students musical experience whilst at our school. The music department continue to work hard and want to continue entering NCBF (National Concert Band Festival), MFY (Music for Youth) and the GNBF (Great Northern Big Band Festival). The school is preparing for the next WMC (World Music Contest) in Kerkrade and is passionate about performing the Music for the annual school productions.

## Further information (optional)

Music department staff continue to look for opportunities to improve the musical experience of our students. Strategies include preparing to visit the WMC again and looking into developing links with more local primary schools in order to provide early years children with the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. We would also welcome any opportunities to work closer with other leading music departments within the local area, nationally as well as internationally.

Currently the school has a small number of instrumental teachers visiting one local primary school to promote music and encourage younger students from other local schools to get involved in music making.

Our school is linked with Haberdashers' Adams and we have worked closely with this school and performed a joint concert earlier in the 2024 academic year. We look forward to continuing to working closely with them.

We hope to maintain the ambitious standards achieved within the results reached in GCSE & A Level music and to continue the wonderful experiences offered to all pupils of the school.