



Music Development Plan Summary 2025-2026

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Overview

An overview outlining key information regarding music at Faringdon Community College:

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	May 2025
Name of the school Head of Music	Felicity Woolnough flwoolnough@fcc.cambrianlt.org
Name of the school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Maria Button
Name of local Music Hub	Oxfordshire Music Service

Part A: Curriculum Music

At Faringdon Community College we are striving to deliver curriculum lessons that encourage students to think and act like musicians. Lessons are a mixture of practical tasks (performance and composition) and appraising music.

All KS3 students study music once a week. We have two KS4 courses: GCSE and BTEC music. Students studying these courses have five lessons a fortnight.

At Faringdon Community College, the curriculum for music is fundamentally based on the National Curriculum with elements from and incorporating both the Model Music Curriculum (2021) and National Plan for Music Education (2022, updated 2024). All lessons are adapted to best suit the needs of the students in each class.

Within our curriculum, the three major components of music are included throughout: appraising, performing, and composing. These skills are sequenced throughout the three years to create rounded musicians who are ready for KS4 study and to pursue music as a lifelong hobby.

KS3 Curriculum Overview 2024-2025

YEAR 7		
STOMP	House Singing Competition	Keyboard Course
What is rhythm and how does it work? Developing an understanding of the key elements of music using rhythm. Students will begin to learn rhythmic notation and compose and perform their own rhythms.	Who will be this year's Year 7 house singing champions? Now in its third year, Year 7 will take place in the annual house singing competition. Students will also learn about different vocal types and how to navigate a vocal score.	Year 7 will put together all they have discovered this year and apply their knowledge to a keyboard course. Students will develop their knowledge further of music elements and notation whilst applying this to keyboard music and performance.
YEAR 8		
Blues, Jazz + Rock n Roll	Musical Timeline and Programme Music	Film Music
Developing knowledge of the three genres of Blues, Jazz and Rock n Roll. Students will participate in a series of whole-class performances and learn how to create their own improvisations.	Students will be taken through a timeline of music covering Baroque, Classical and Romantic styles of music. There will be a combination of performance tasks as well as composing and appraising.	Why is music important in movies? Students will apply their musical knowledge and understanding in analysing some of the most successful pieces of film music. There will be a composition task in which Year 8 will create their own film music compositions to fit a film brief.
YEAR 9		
Theme and Variations	World Music	Song Writing
Exploring and appraising compositional elements and musical devices. Students will compose their own theme and variation pieces of music.	Music from Western Africa and Reggae. Through both genres students will learn about the unique instruments, techniques and rhythms used for each style of music. Students will compose their own rhythmic djembe performances and perform reggae music.	Explore the popular music genre whilst exploring compositional devices. Students will use Mixcraft to write their own pop song. They will develop their understanding of structure and melody writing.

KS4 Curriculum Overview 2025-2026

KS4 students at FCC are encouraged to be the best representatives for the music department. KS4 students are expected to get involved in as many extra-curricular activities as they can. This will support them in becoming an all-rounded musician.

At KS4 level, students are able to choose from two courses:

- GCSE Music (Eduqas)
- BTEC Music (Pearson)

Further information about the content and teaching of each course can be found on our school website.

BTEC Level ½ Tech Award in Music Practise -

<https://www.fccoxon.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=197&type=pdf>

GCSE Music –

<https://www.fccoxon.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=198&type=pdf>

KS5 Curriculum Overview 2025-2026

KS5 students at FCC are encouraged to act as role-models to younger students. KS5 music students are expected to get involved in as many extra-curricular activities as possible within the department. KS5 students are often visible leaders in KS3 music lessons.

We offer A Level Music (Eduqas). Further information about the content and delivery of this course can be found on the school website:

<https://www.fccoxon.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=199&type=pdf>

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

At Faringdon Community College, all staff are committed to inclusive teaching that enables all students to unlock their full potential. It is imperative that every student can access the music curriculum. Staff regularly attend CPD on the teaching of SEND students and all FCC staff are equipped with strategies to support all students. Scaffolding and differentiation methods are used in all lessons in the music department.

Music Qualifications

Faringdon Community College offers students the opportunity to complete either the Eduqas GCSE Music course, or Pearson BTEC Level ½ award in Music Practise during Key Stage 4. Key Stage 5 students have the option to take A Level Music under the Eduqas exam board. In addition to this, students across all year groups have the option to sit graded instrumental or vocal examinations with the support of their visiting music teacher (VMT). A link to more information on lessons with VMTs is available in the co-curricular section of this development plan.

Part B: Co-Curricular Music

At Faringdon Community College, we are committed to delivering music provision that creates rounded musicians. Students are encouraged to think, talk and act like musicians. Our students have regular opportunities to access extra-curricular activities in which they can make, create, perform and play music.

We have six practice rooms which students are encouraged to use to rehearse as a soloist or as part of a band. These are available to use at breaktimes, lunchtimes and after school.

Instrumental and Vocal ensembles

We offer a range of instrumental and vocal ensembles that are offered free of charge across all year groups. Rehearsals and clubs take place in the music department or in the hall, where appropriate.

- **FCC Concert Band – After School**
This is FCC's flagship ensemble as part of our commitment to encourage as many young people as possible to learn an instrument. Concert Band regularly performs both in school and out in the community. We rehearse once a week and play a wide variety of music including popular music, film music and jazz and swing. Some arrangements are created by the Head of Music to suit the playing ability of all the musicians in the ensemble. All students who have lessons in woodwind, string and brass instruments are strongly encouraged to join this ensemble.
- **FCCV (FCC Vocalists) – After School**
FCCV are a vocal group that rehearse weekly. We regularly perform in school and in the community such as at a local care home. Students are encouraged to attend FCCV if they simply enjoy singing or if they are keen performers. We sing a lot of musical theatre songs as well as songs from movies. Attendees are also encouraged to bring along recommendations of songs.
- **Band Club – After School**
This is an open slot for students to come with their peers to use the rehearsal spaces. Bands are regularly formed among the student body and this club helps them to develop their rehearsal and performance skills in order to prepare for performances.
- **Music Theory Club – After School**
Music Theory Club is a small group that helps support students with the music theory requirements of the GCSE Music course and ABRSM examination board.

Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs)

Lessons:

FCC offers peripatetic music lesson delivered by specialist VMTs. These lessons enhance students' music education through individual or small group instruction. Lessons provide opportunities for students to receive instrumental or vocal tuition in school in a variety of instruments.

Further information about instrumental lessons on offer can be found on the school website:

<https://www.fccoxon.co.uk/page/?title=Music+Lessons&pid=88>

Please contact the listed provider to sign up for lessons.

The lesson costs vary depending on the length and provider of the lessons.

Subsidised Lessons:

We can offer some financial assistance for students in certain circumstances. Oxfordshire Music Service can provide free music lessons to students in certain financial situations.

Loaning an Instrument:

Instruments are available to loan from the Oxfordshire Music Service.

More information is available here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/music-service/music-lessons/hiring-instruments>

Part C: Musical Experiences

Throughout the school year there are opportunities for students to perform and go on music department trips. Students are encouraged to embrace these opportunities as much as possible.

Highlights of trips and workshops in the academic year 2025-2026 include:

- London Philharmonic Bright Sparks Concert, Royal Festival Hall London.
- KS3 CBSO Concert, Birmingham Symphony Hall.
- Behind the scenes tour of the Royal Albert Hall, London.
- Workshop and Careers Talk at FCC with Royal Marines Band Service.
- Live performance by the Royal Air Force Saxophone Ensemble.
- City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra – performance of Elgar’s Cello Concerto with soloist Sheku Kanneh-Mason.
- Year 8 trip to Royal Albert Hall – ‘Future Makers’ concert and venue tour.

Within the year, there are several additional musical opportunities that take place:

Christmas Concert

Folly Fest

Concert and Cake

Primary Schools

Care Homes

End of Year assembly

School Production (Bi-Annual)

Trust Performing Arts Festival

New opportunities introduced in the 2025-2026 academic year

Music Ambassadors – Students in Year 9 and above will have the opportunity to take a student leadership role within the music department. This was started in the previous academic year and will continue to grow.

Autumn Concert – ‘Disney Favourites’ theme.

Performing Arts Awards evening – A celebration of dance, drama and music students.

November 2025 KS3 Trips (year groups TBC) – Future Makers Concert and Tour of the Royal Albert Hall

Part D: In The Future

We are committed to ensuring that our music department continues to expand so that more students can access further musical enrichment.

Throughout future years, all students in Y7-9 will continue to have music lessons once a week. Students in KS3, KS4 and KS5 will all be given the opportunity to attend at least one live music performance a year.

It is strongly believed on an international scale that learning an instrument increased the creative intelligence of students and provides young people with lifelong skills. We are committed to encouraging as many students as possible to learn an instrument. To create an impact with this, we aim to ensure that the Musical Instrument Fair with Oxfordshire Music Service is made an annual event. Students of an appropriate standard will be encouraged to join youth music ensembles with the music service to further push their musical potential outside of school.

We are currently expanding our performance opportunities available in the school year. In the academic year of 2025-2026 we aim to have a main music department concert in each of the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

We are committed to developing our links with the feeder schools and local community. Over the next two academic years, we aim to have performed in as many of our feeder schools as possible.