



Music Development Plan Summary 2026-2027

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Overview

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

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school Head of Music	Felicity Woolnough flwoolnough@fcc.faringdonlearningtrust.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 2026-2027

YEAR 7		
STOMP	Keyboard Course	Four Chord Trick
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	Year 7 will put together all they have discovered in STOMP and apply their rhythm knowledge to a keyboard course. Students will develop their knowledge further of music elements	We will now pull together all we have discovered this year and apply our knowledge to the ukulele. We will develop our band skills and work in small ensembles to rehearse

and compose and perform their own rhythms.	and notation whilst applying this to keyboard music and performance.	and perform pop song chord sequences.
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	Composing for Popular Music
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 2026-2027

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, we run the below course:

- GCSE Music (Eduqas)

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

GCSE Music –

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

KS5 Curriculum Overview 2026-2027

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>

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.

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 the Eduqas GCSE Music course 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) – Lunchtime**

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.

- **String Group – Breaktime**

The String Group is an expanding ensemble. There are currently 8 musicians that attend every week of a variety of ability levels. All abilities are welcome and there is always a part for everyone to play. String Group plays a variety of music from the Baroque Era to Coldplay!

- **Brass Group – Tutor Time**

The Brass Group is an ensemble of 5 musicians, all playing different brass instruments. All abilities are welcome. Brass Group plays a variety of music including film music, Disney and pop songs!

- **Theory Club – Tutor Time**

This is a great opportunity for students to develop their music theory skills outside of classroom lessons. We encourage KS4/5 music students to attend as well as musicians lower down the school who may be considering KS4 study.

- **Band Club – After School**

Band Club is an open session during which musicians can come and use the practice rooms after school one day a week. We have many student-run bands who enjoy performing at our regular events, including Folly Fest in the Summer term.

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 2025-26 include:

- KS3 London Symphony Orchestra Concert, Barbican, London.
- Behind the scenes tour of the Royal Albert Hall, London.
- Future Makers Concert, Royal Albert Hall, London.
- Mounbatten Festival of Music – Royal Marines Band Service. Royal Albert Hall, London.
- Workshop at FCC with British Army Band Sandhurst.
- Concert Band Christmas performance at Tesco.

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

Christmas Concert

Folly Fest

Primary School visits and performances

End of Year assembly

School Production (Bi-Annual)

Trust Performing Arts Festival

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.

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.