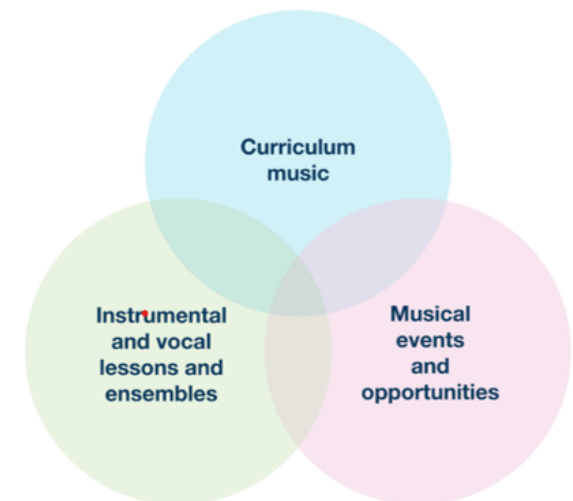




Atlantic Academy

Part of the Athena Learning Trust

ATLANTIC ACADEMY MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN



This template supports the DfE vision set out in the refreshed [National Plan for Music Education](#) 2022 for all schools to have a published School Music Development Plan by September 2023.

Completed by: N Reeves (Head of Faculty) and K Pentecost (Perf. Arts Teacher)

Date: April 2025

Review date: 2026

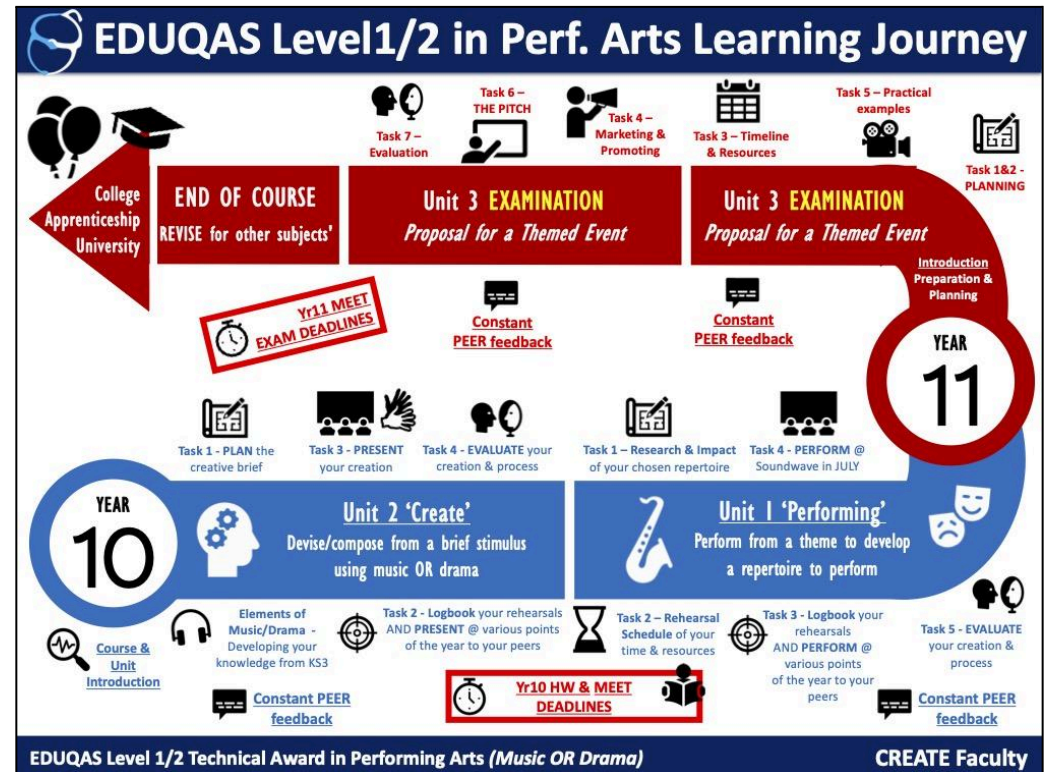
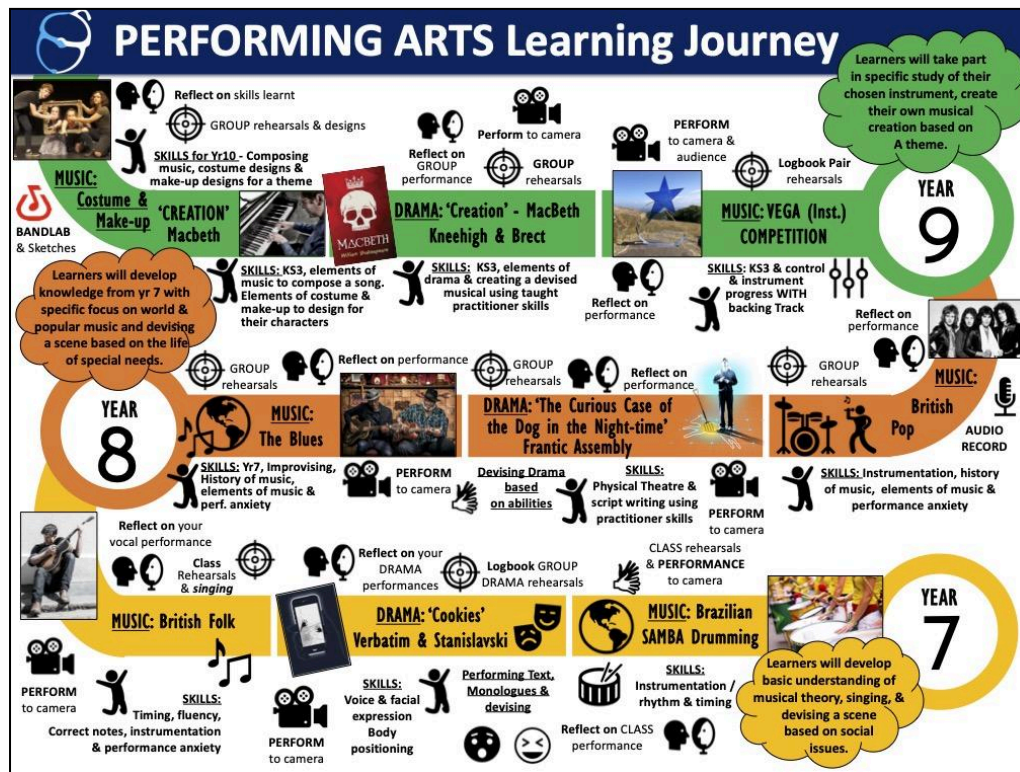
Music Hub: Devon Music Hub

Focus area 1: Curriculum

[Government Model Music Curriculum](#)

[KS3-4 Curriculum Map / Learning Journey \(see below\)](#)

[KS4 EDUQAS Level 1/2 in Performing Arts](#)



Not yet in place	Emerging	Established	Embedded
<p>Music is delivered 'ad hoc' and not in every year group. Some groups of students are unable to access the music curriculum.</p> <p>Progress over time is not measured or celebrated.</p> <p>There are limited resources for teaching.</p>	<p>Music is a timetabled subject, with schemes of work and assessment in place. All students are able to access this curriculum in all year groups.</p> <p>Students engage with schemes of work and build areas of musical interest and growing skill.</p> <p>Pupils with additional needs are able to participate and engage with music-making.</p> <p>There is adequate teaching space and resources available.</p>	<p>The music curriculum is at least as ambitious as the national curriculum. Curriculum sequencing is clear. - KS3</p> <p>Good progress is demonstrated by secure and incremental learning of the technical, constructive, and expressive aspects of music, developing musical understanding.</p> <p>Pupils with additional needs are able to participate and progress well (supported by technology, tools and adapted instruments).</p> <p>Space and resources allow breadth of curriculum for all students, including music technology.</p>	<p>Curriculum goes beyond the level of the national curriculum, seeking to address social disadvantage by addressing gaps in knowledge, skills and experiences (i.e. concerts, live events). - KS4 ONLY</p>

Our Curriculum best fit is: **ESTABLISHED**

Key Stage 4

Students enjoy a rich and engaging Performing Arts curriculum, with two terms each year dedicated to Music. Our [Curriculum Map](#) outlines an inspiring musical journey, with projects that build core skills in performance, composition (using both manuscript paper and BandLab for Education), listening, and singing. Music notation is taught in line with the government's [Model Music Curriculum](#), and student understanding is regularly checked using interactive methods such as mini whiteboards 'show me' activities. This knowledge is then applied practically—for example, Year 7 students perform *Scarborough Fair* on keyboards.

Throughout KS3, students explore a wide range of instruments as part of their class lessons, including:

- Singing
- Keyboard
- Guitar
- Bass Guitar
- Drums

Additionally, we offer access to visiting peripatetic teachers for 1:1 instrumental tuition, enriching students' experience further (see Section B for more details). We're proud to have successfully secured [Music Education Grant \(MEG\) Funding](#) from Devon Music Hub, supporting enhanced resources and opportunities for our young musicians.

Creative Composition Projects

Composition is a key focus throughout KS3:

- In Year 7, students compose their own 'breaks' during the Samba project using manuscript notation.
- In Year 8, they write instrumental solos for their band performances.
- In Year 9, students use *BandLab for Education* in the 'Create' project, preparing them with essential digital and production skills for KS4.

Key Stage 4 – EDUQAS Performing Arts

At KS4, students can opt to take the *EDUQAS Level 1/2 Vocational Performing Arts* qualification.

Our timetable includes:

- **6 hours of music** over a fortnight in Year 10
- **5 hours** in Year 11

The course allows students to specialise—whether that's on a specific instrument, voice, or within performance and production roles. The curriculum is carefully designed to build on previous learning and meet all qualification criteria, while remaining flexible to suit students' needs. Lesson planning is responsive and dynamic, with ongoing controlled assessment (esam conditions) by teachers and moderation by EDUQAS.

Homework is set weekly, aligned with coursework and extended lesson tasks, using the school's *BromCom* platform.

Please click '[Specification](#)' to view the published specification of the course.

- **Unit 1** (Yr 10) enables learners to gain a holistic knowledge and understanding of the skills and techniques needed to reproduce an existing piece(s) of professional/published work. This unit can be completed through any one of the following disciplines: **Drama & Music**.
- **Unit 2** enables learners to gain, develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the skills and techniques needed to create and refine original work in the performing arts. This unit can be completed through any one of the following disciplines from either performance or production: Performance/Production disciplines; **Devised drama, Composition, Costume design, Make-up and hair design**
- **Unit 3** introduces learners to areas of the performing arts that need to be considered when responding to an industry commission

Action Plan 1: Curriculum

Set your school some actions here	Review date	Status
Maintain high-quality teaching practice and materials are up-to-date	April 2026	In Progress
Continue to ensure the curriculum is engaging and inclusive	April 2026	In Progress
PEN CPD for BandLab software and audio interface hardware	September 2025	Not started
After the above training PEN to update Precision Plan for both KS3 & 4	January 2026	Not started

Focus area 2: Instrumental and Vocal Lessons and Ensembles

Not yet in place	Emerging	Established	Embedded
<p>Singing takes place infrequently in school.</p> <p>There are opportunities to perform for a small number of pupils. There may be barriers to participation.</p> <p>Facilitation of one to one and small group tuition is limited or inconsistent.</p>	<p>Singing and vocal work is frequent, varied and all students are engaged. All pupils, including the most disadvantaged and pupils with SEND, have an opportunity to perform regularly. In-school musical events take place at least termly.</p> <p>The school facilitates one to one and group tuition through respected and proven music tutors. Pupils and families facing the largest barriers are given support to engage in music learning as part of, and beyond, the curriculum.</p>	<p>Singing and vocal work is embedded into the life of the school and into every child's experience, drawing on a wide range of high-quality, age-appropriate repertoire and developing musicianship. All staff in the school are able to support singing.</p> <p>Music performance is a prominent component of school life from an early age; music is performed in assemblies and events such as sports day and open evenings alongside in-school events.</p> <p>The overall provision is diverse, valuing all musical styles, genres and traditions equally; this is reflected in the clubs and enrichment programme and drawing on the skills, talents and interests of staff and local stakeholders through specialist tuition. A large proportion of students are involved.</p>	<p>A full, long-term singing strategy is in place that ensures progression for all students.</p> <p>The school tracks and monitors engagement in enrichment, ensuring that there is a large proportion of students able to engage in music in and out of school. Provision is targeted, demonstrating wider impact.</p> <p>Co-curricular music is supported by the school and time is allocated for staff to run these groups successfully</p> <p>Students are able to take leadership roles in musical opportunities.</p> <p>The school is actively involved in national, large scale events.</p>
<p>Our Instrumental and Vocal Lessons and Ensembles best fit is: EMERGING</p>			
<p><u>Instrumental & Vocal Lessons at Atlantic Academy</u></p> <p>At Atlantic Academy, every student has the opportunity to take part in high-quality instrumental and vocal lessons in drums, keyboard, guitar, and singing. We believe in removing barriers to participation, so Pupil Premium (PP) students receive additional support to help them access lessons if they wish to take part.</p>			

Our peripatetic music teachers are not only highly skilled educators—they're also active musicians with extensive experience in the music industry. This wealth of expertise translates directly into the energy and passion seen in lessons, and ultimately, the **strong outcomes achieved by our KS4 students**.

Students can choose to:

- Learn **just for fun**,
- Pursue lessons with a **more academic focus**, or
- Prepare for **graded music exams**, if they wish.

Lessons are available **one-to-one, in pairs, or small groups**, depending on the student's needs and preferences. Fees vary based on group size and lesson length, and **instrument loans** are available via Devon Music Hub where possible. You can find more details about hiring instruments here: [Devon Music Hub – Instrument Hire](#)

Clubs, Bands & Enrichment Opportunities

Our Music Department is always buzzing! **Music clubs run during lunchtime**, offering a welcoming and creative space for students from all year groups. All clubs are **free of charge** and open to everyone, whether students are just beginning or already experienced.

Our ensembles include:

- **Student-led rock bands** (KS3 & KS4) using our practice rooms during lunch
- **KS4 Coursework Support** (performance and written help sessions)
- **Drop-in practice sessions** with access to keyboards, instruments and rehearsal space
- **Whole-school choir** (launching after school from September 2025)

Action Plan 2: Instrumental and Vocal Lessons and Ensembles

Set your school some actions here	Review date	Status
Identify staff to train in sound system	December 2025	Not started
More sound support for events - training for identified staff	April 2026	Not started
Run a choir club after school to promote dedication	January 2026	Not started
Investigate how other schools have all-staff support singing within the school	September 2025	Not started
Investigate 'enrichment programme' for enrichment week in 2026	April 2026	Not started
Staff & governors Google Form for skills, talents and interests for music	September 2025	Not started
Registers for clubs and workshops	January 2026	Not started

Focus area 3: Musical Events and Opportunities

Not yet in place	Emerging	Established	Embedded
<p>Engagement with the hub is limited.</p> <p>Small-scale performance takes place in the community, building on existing school links.</p> <p>Some parents and carers support music-making in the school by attending events.</p>	<p>The school takes up opportunities from the Hub (such as the Songfest event) and signposts opportunities for students. - One person department - 'Battle of the Bands'</p> <p>Community links are established with the music team; regular events take place throughout the school year.</p> <p>Parents and carers actively support music making, through support at events and through home learning.</p>	<p>The school makes the most of a wide range of opportunities from the hub, working with and supporting the Devon Music Hub.</p> <p>Meaningful partnerships are established with the community and a large proportion of students engage with this, understanding that there are clear civic and moral benefits to doing so (<i>link to personal development and character education</i>).</p> <p>The views of pupils, parents and carers have been considered when developing music provision.</p> <p>The school has links to the wider music eco-system and actively encourages students to join the area ensembles. Students benefit from interactions with those working in the profession.</p>	<p>The school is a leader musically in the local community and works closely with the Music Hub being able to influence and support beyond their immediate setting.</p> <p>There is a co-ordinated programme of community events, planned in partnership with stakeholders. These events giving students the opportunity to engage in volunteering.</p> <p>Parents/carers and the wider community are actively involved in school music making</p> <p>The school has established connections with the next stages of musical education and the music service so that progression routes can be signposted meaningfully</p>
<p>Our Musical Events and Opportunities best fit is: EMERGING</p>			
<p>Our students play an active role in sharing the joy of music with the wider community. During Open Evenings, students from all year groups support the Music Department by showcasing solo and group performances. These informal 'rehearsals' take place throughout the department, allowing prospective students and their families to enjoy live music while getting a feel for our vibrant learning environment. Current students are always on hand to support visitors, offering guidance and encouragement so that even our youngest guests can join in and experience the excitement of making music at Atlantic Academy.</p>			

We actively encourage students to rehearse independently or collaboratively, with many going on to perform in **wider community events**. A highlight of the year is our participation in external events such as the **Battle of the Bands**, run by Devon Music Hub which is a fantastic opportunity for students to perform in a real-world setting and connect with other young musicians across the county. Some of our bands perform in local 'Open Mic Night' events within our community which speak highly of their abilities.

The **summer term brings our flagship music event, 'Soundwave'**, an energetic, end-of-year concert celebrating all levels of talent and commitment. KS3 students are invited to perform for fun or to gain valuable stage experience, while KS4 students take to the stage as part of their assessed coursework. With performances from soloists, bands, and ensembles, and an audience of proud family, friends, and staff, *Soundwave* is a true celebration of the creativity, hard work and musical growth that takes place across the year.

Action Plan 3: Musical Events and Opportunities

Set your school some actions here	Review date	Status
Continue to attend a workshop/opportunity the Hub provides e.g. <i>Battle of the Bands / Rock Choir</i>	April 2026	Not started
Reinstate performances within end of term assemblies e.g. <i>Christmas (Easter - Drama performance)</i>	January 2026	Not started
Google Form 'Music Provision' to parent community to gain an understanding as to what they musically want to see in Atlantic Academy	January 2026	Not started
Investigate how to link Music activities with the wider community to create meaningful partnerships	April 2026	Not started
Investigate music industry organisations who could best benefit our KS4 students to assist them with their coursework e.g. Make-up & hair (U2&3), marketing (U3), musicians (U1-3)	January 2026	Not started

How The Department Will Achieve These Action Plans

Area	Detail
<p>What Budget and /or Resources do you need to achieve your action plan?</p>	<p>These additional resources will inspire creativity, support coursework, and open up future opportunities. These resources aren't just equipment — they're tools to help our students build confidence, grow creatively, and succeed academically.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers Rock Youth Event – A fantastic performance opportunity for our young musicians. There is a per-child cost to attend, and we want every student to have access, regardless of background. Your support helps make that possible. ● Keyboards (x3) – £241.67 each To stretch and challenge more advanced students, we need additional keyboards so individuals can play with both hands — an essential skill for progression and confidence. ● Keyboard Stands (x5) – £49.17 each Currently, we're short on tables (and they're heavy and awkward!). These stands will make our setup safer, faster, and more efficient — saving valuable lesson time. ● Bass Guitars & Amps (x2) – £TBC We've got some fantastic bass players! With more instruments, we can support group work, skill development, and give every student the chance to shine. ● Focusrite Scarlett 18i8 Audio Interface (x2) – £264.17 each Recording coursework from Year 9–11 is vital. With more interfaces, students can spend more time creating, less time waiting. Every second counts when inspiration strikes!
<p>What CPD might be required to achieve your action plan?</p>	<p>To deliver the best learning experiences in music, drama, and performance, we as educators need access to expert training that boosts our confidence and sharpens our technical skills. These skills directly enhance what we can offer students. From creating music to running live shows, staff CPD leads to more independent, ambitious, and inspired learners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BandLab for Education Training – £TBC I've been experimenting with BandLab, but sometimes things go wrong — and I don't always know why. A focused training session would help me (and students!) use it with more confidence and purpose, especially for composition and recording coursework. ● Sound Desk Training – for 3 staff We're keen to run more student-supported performances and events throughout the year, but we need to better understand our sound desk. Could Matt Allison from BC deliver this training? It would support both lessons and live performances across the year. ● Lighting Desk Training – for 2 staff We want to bring more music concerts to life, but lighting is currently a weak spot. With training (again, possibly from Matt Allison at BC), we can teach students how to design and run their own shows — which would support Unit 3 coursework!

<p>What Partnerships will you put in place to achieve your action plan?</p>	<p>To bring this action plan to life, I'm going to start building purposeful partnerships that will unlock opportunities, enhance teaching, and inspire every student.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Devon Music Hub (via Debbie Kent) Partnering with Devon Music Hub to access non-orchestral workshops like <i>Teachers Rock Youth</i> gives students access to vibrant, inclusive musical experiences beyond the traditional — including singing, contemporary music-making, and mass ensemble events. ● Additional Funding / Teacher CPD (Research in Progress) I'll be actively exploring funding streams such as Artsmark & UMUKSF to support wider creative projects and teachers CPD. This could mean artist residencies, performance events, or cross-arts experiences — all designed to raise aspiration and broaden access for every student. <i>(96% say Artsmark's improved their pupils' learning outcomes, 98% say Artsmark broadens and enriches their curriculum, 96% say Artsmark's supported school improvement plans)</i> ● BandLab for Education By engaging with the BandLab educator community and training offers, I'll develop my own skills and empower students to create high-quality digital music — crucial for coursework and creative expression. ● School-to-School Collaboration By connecting with colleagues across the trust and local schools, I'll share best practice, co-create CPD, and offer students broader opportunities through joint events and shared resources. Matt Allison - A key partner for tailored training on sound and lighting desks, enabling our staff and students to confidently run live shows, assemblies, and performances to a professional standard. ● Meaningful Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Engage Families: Share our vision for <i>Music Provision</i> with the parent community to better understand what they value and would like to see from music at Atlantic Academy. ○ Community Connections: Explore ways to connect our music activities with the wider community, creating partnerships that enrich learning and give real-world relevance to our students' experiences. ○ Industry Collaboration: Build relationships with local organisations that can support and enhance our KS4 curriculum — such as hair and make-up professionals (Units 2 & 3), marketing specialists (Unit 3), and musicians or performance artists (Units 1–3).
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