

Our Vision for Music and Music Development Plan

Music is a universal language which embodies one of the highest forms of creativity and can cross the many divides that we see in the world. We aim to teach our students what it is like to be and feel like a musician.

At The Victory Academy, the overriding ethos for Key Stage 3 is giving students practical experiences and core music understanding to both develop and embrace their creativity and curiosity of the world. Key Stage 4 will centre around the extension of music knowledge through the various routes chosen by the student (Academic, Performance or Technology).

We recognise the importance of cultural capital in the development of the whole child and the role that engagement in music can play in this. For some, KS3 music may be the only opportunity an individual gets to experience music in a practical setting, and it is for that reason that music education at this level should be as high quality as possible. Music education supports a young person's personal development developing a student's self-confidence, creativity, and resilience and this is built into the curriculum.

Academic year this summary covers:	Sept 2024 – July 2025
Date this summary was published:	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed:	July 2025
Name of the school music lead:	Charlotte Wilson
Name of School leadership team member with responsibility for music:	Carley Dawkins
Name of Local Music Hub:	Kent Music
Name of other music education organisations:	Dynamics

Part A: Curriculum Music

Music lessons aim to be as practical as possible, in line with the goal of teaching students what it is like to be a musician. Students will participate in a range of activities and experiences through a range of musical styles in their timetabled music lessons throughout years 7, 8 and 9.

Students will listen to different pieces of music each term, covering a variety of genres, to broaden their musical horizons as well as develop their cultural awareness as well as analytical and musical appraising skills.

Topics are aimed developing all aspects of performing, composition, and improvisation through a range of music styles. Students will develop their skills using music technology such as use of our dedicated music computer suites and recording studio. Performance skills will be developed on a variety of instruments such as keyboard, xylophone, guitar, boom-whackers and voice. Students will have access to rehearsal space throughout the year and the school benefits from multiple music practice rooms equipped for both individual and small group instrument practice.

The music curriculum is sequenced so that students will build on existing knowledge and skills and will develop vocal and/or instrumental fluency, accuracy, and expressiveness.

Part B: Extra-curricular, co-curricular and clubs for Music:

In addition to the classroom lessons all students across years 7, 8 and 9 receive as part of their curriculum day, we offer extensive co-curricular music opportunities including band, singing, recording studio and show clubs. In addition to this, year 7 can benefit from small group, fully-funded peripatetic instrument lessons with an expert, external instrument teacher, to introduce them to or help develop their specific instrument skills. There is the option to further this by pursuing either individual or small group peripatetic lessons after the term's free additional lessons which can also progress to graded music exams on and individual interest basis.

In our popular band club, students explore instruments such as ukulele, guitar (electric, acoustic, classical), singing, drums and piano or keyboard. Additional instruments are available when desired. This club, as with all our Performing Arts clubs, is entirely free for all, taking place in a lunchtime each week with a qualified teacher and skilled musician supporting all students to develop and enjoy music.

Part C: Musical experiences

Students can take part in the school choir opportunities through our singing clubs and school events including Winter and Summer larger performance events. Instrument and singing students are also able to take part in large events multiple times per year such as performing at our Open Evening, Celebration assemblies, Victory Birthday and School Shows.

Students will have the opportunity to perform to peers at least once per term within their curriculum lessons, within a variety of styles of music including African Drumming, Blues, Film Music, Orchestral music and singing within film.

Our ultimate goal with music is to ensure all students have an understanding of different genres of music, are able to be creative and play an instrument, enriching lives through the cultural enrichment, personal development, enjoyment and achievement to be gained through engagement with music.

Students are offered school trips yearly, including ballet, musical theatre, acting and music events which whilst this attracts a cost to parents/ carers, some support is available, so it is advised to contact the school if the cost is seen as a barrier. In addition to this, we are always looking to invite celebrated companies to provide workshops for students and / or perform at the school. Past celebrated performances and workshops include Professor Paws, ICON, RSC and African drummers.

In the future

At The Victory Academy, we are always looking for ways to improve our music and creative offering within school. Looking to our future aims, we are always looking to increase our offering of the instruments we are able to provide tuition for and those we integrate into the music curriculum. We aim to continue to increase the variety offered for instrument lessons both within the curriculum and peripatetic offering. Whilst we offer a varied Performing Arts curriculum currently, with Music throughout the year in all of KS3 and an increased focus in the specialised subject for the second half of year 9 to ensure all musicians, dancers and actors are able to be best prepared for their exam subject with 3 hours per fortnight, we are looking at ways to continue to increase the hours of music offering even further for years 7 and 8.

We continue to grow the presence of music within the school, with aims to bring our school choir and band into additional music events throughout the calendar year and bring a termly music celebration to assemblies to celebrate the many achievements of our students.

Our termly reflections include student feedback from our Music Ambassadors, so we will continue to respond to student feedback and welcome suggestions of additional music events, trips, peripatetic instruments and celebration ideas.

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where parents / carers can go to for support beyond the school.

Our local music hub, [Kent Music](#), has a local plan for music education in place with additional useful information. Kent Music also kindly sponsor our music provision of peripatetic music instrument introductions for each year 7 cohort.

[Medway Tickets Live](#) provide up-to-date information on what music events are available locally.

Another local company that offers music opportunities for local children aged 7 to 18 is [Medway Music Association](#) including many online music technology free online sessions that many of our keen music technology students take up keenly.