



TOWNLEY  
— EST 1937 —  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

## Overview

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.

Townley Grammar offers music throughout all key stages, and teaches the National Curriculum up to the end of key stage 3. From key stage 4 onwards, students can choose whether to continue with Music at GCSE level and then for key stage 5 the A-Level is offered. We are currently using the GCSE OCR board and the A-Level AQA board syllabuses.

Throughout key stage 3 the school follows a set curriculum which covers the Model Curriculum.

- Year 7 – singing and learning about folk music, performing in harmony and unison in a concert setting. Learning a simple tune on the keyboard, reading notation and rhythms. Introduction to chords using Ukeleles and chair drumming leading to ensemble work. Introduction to composition via a DAW with basic notation and computer use. Covering African drumming with polyrhythm structures. One 50 minute lesson per week in a class size of 26.
- Year 8 – singing in minimum of 3 parts. Learning about chords and harmonic structure, acapella singing and how to build a performance in parts. Using DAWs for composition for rhythmic development, linking to notation and composing music for the Gaming industry. Performing and composing via band work with different instruments, such as xylophones, keyboards, drums and ukuleles, incorporating chords and polyrhythms. Covering Samba as a rhythmic device to develop polyrhythms and textures within structure. One 50 minute lesson per week in a class size of 26.
- Year 9 – singing in minimum of 3 parts, in harmony and improvising using Blues scales and natural harmonics. Composing via a DAW, linking to Film Music and composing music to a scene within a film. Exploring Musical Theatre, Hip-Hop and Rap via Hamilton and working on extended chordal structures, structural development of popular music and exploring protest poetry and the origins of Hip-Hop and/or Brit-pop. Exploring Bangra and influences of Indian music throughout the world. One 50 minute lesson per week in a class size of 17.
- All classes are easily accessible via Google Classroom during lessons, and accessible on student's Chromebooks. There is also ear defenders available for students who have sensory requirements, and headphones are used continually when independent keyboard work is taking place. We are an inclusive department and all SEND students are encouraged to join the extra-curricular activities and many partake in the individual instrumental lessons with peripatetic tutors too.

## Part B: Extra 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.

There are various ensemble groups which take place throughout the week for different year groups. Intermediate Choir – Years 7-9, Senior Choir – Years 10-13, Orchestra – All years (instrument level grade 2+), Fusion Band (non-players and any level instrument players), Theory Club (all years), Music Tech Club (all years), String Ensemble (string players from grades 0-3), Piano Trio (auditioned members), Composition Clinic (GCSE and A-level students, but all are welcome). Gospel Choir (6<sup>th</sup> form audition).

All students are encouraged to join the music groups which run at lunchtimes and after school, and/or to set up their own groups, and as a result there are several school bands which perform regularly at school events.

There are also peripatetic teachers who visit the school, providing individual tuition in specific instruments including guitar, bass, piano, singing, strings, brass, woodwind and percussion. Through these lessons, students are encouraged to achieve graded music exams if they wish, and several partake in lessons outside school and are also encouraged to perform in school events too.

The school has lots of instruments which are loaned to students free of charge if they are taking peripatetic lessons, but these students are strongly encouraged to join the school ensembles. Peripatetic lessons are charged directly to the parent, and there is provision for a 50% reduction for Pupil Premium students, although this is currently under review to increase if possible next year. There are now 4 working drum kits in the department and 5 tuned practice pianos within 6 individual practice rooms. These rooms are given on a first come-first served basis at lunchtimes and/or after school, and are regularly over-subscribed every day.

We have links with the local music hub based at Bexley Music Centre. We also have links with a local church, Christ Church, Bexleyheath.

## Part C: Musical 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.

Music is part of every assembly during the academic week and individuals are encouraged to perform during this time. There is a huge waiting list for students to perform at these events and students are very supportive of their fellow performers. There are 3 main concerts per year with the Winter concert including all of the new Year 7 students. The Summer concert is twinned with Cultural Day allowing the ensembles to explore different types of music from around the world and several students who study Canarttic singing will be performing this year.

Concerts are charged at £5 per person and have been very well attended and supported by staff and parents with each concert having over 150 audience members minimum.

The Performing Arts departments collaborate on a Musical production, and this is planned to be produced in July 2025 with a production of Frozen. Many students from Dance, Drama, Music and Art are all involved with this project and the musical side has brought many students into the Music department to sing that would not otherwise have attended the choirs. There are 4 planned performances of this production. Year 7 are also undertaking a Dance Showcase on the Beatles and this has included cross-collaboration with the Music department, to include singing. The Year 7s are showcasing this in May 2025.

The Senior Choir has taken part in a local Choir competition based in Bromley and are hoping to travel to Austria in April to take part in an International choir event, and then later in September to Blackpool for the World Choir Games.

The Intermediate Choir and the Orchestra have a provisional trip planned to Paris in the summer of 2026, where they will be performing in 2 concerts within Paris, and this allows the Choir to sing with an accompanying orchestra, and to experience professional and international concert venues.

At Christmas all the choirs sing in the Christmas Carol Service which is held at a local church and this includes over 100 students singing in the 9 lessons and Carols service. This is also available to parents free of charge.

Our local church, Christ Church, Bexleyheath also put on lunchtime concerts once a month, and there are opportunities for our KS4 and KS5 students to enrich their performance opportunities at these events, and to showcase their work to the local community. This is also available to the public and parents for a small fee which is donated to the Church.

There are also opportunities for KS4 and KS5 students to perform at Christmas in a local heritage property called Hall Place, and this is open to the public. This allows students to practice for their A-level performances and for any auditions they may have, in a professional environment.

The music department also calls on ensembles regularly such as the Gospel Choir, and the Piano Trio, to perform at school evening events, such as parents evenings, presentation events and Open Days. There are also several school calendar events, such as Head Girls Day which include the whole of Year 7 and the whole of Year 13, who perform to each other using a specific theme. In September there will be a trip for KS5 students to the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, depending on availability of staff.

## In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

### Over the next 18 months:

We would like to focus on composition throughout the school, and need funding to roll out SoundTrap as a DAW to KS3, KS4 and if required KS5 so that this is available for homework as well as classwork. At the moment there are only 75 available seats on this application, so we would need to increase this dramatically to allow priorities for homework in KS3, which at the moment priority has to be given to KS4 and KS5.

There are plans for more music trips to the Proms for KS5, and for to some musicals in KS3, these are cross-curricular with Drama.

There are plans for a school Musical production every year which the music department will be involved in.

Planning to start a Soul Band as an additional ensemble within the school.

Planning to start an Alumni Music Group which will return every summer to perform if they are available.

### Over the next 5 years:

We would like to develop our hip-hop and inclusive learning across all world music by purchasing DJ equipment and teaching KS3 to Mix. This will improve our production skills and allow some students who do not have a traditional instrument, to learn how to DJ and use this for GCSE. Therefore opening doors students who may not be interested in the classical instrumentation studies.

Continue to keep 3 concerts per year with a view to developing the internal ensembles, and to allow them to grow in confidence and performance experience. These can then be used as a means to promote the school and to give back to the local community with concerts and charity events.

## Further information (optional)

Plans to start a staff choir to enhance staff well-being and to make sure that the Music Department is involved at all levels of the school.