



Music Development Plan Summary

Academic Year: 2025/2026

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Head of Music: Sam Parker

Head of Creative Arts: Elspeth Stevenson

Local Music Hub: ASONE (Cornwall Music Hub)

Partnerships: ASONE (Cornwall Music Hub)

Overview

This summary outlines how Helston Community College delivers music education across three key areas: curriculum music, co-curricular music, and musical experiences. It details both the current offerings and future plans, aiming to provide students with a comprehensive and high-quality music education.

Part A: Curriculum Music

At Helston Community College, our music curriculum offers a structured and sequenced learning experience based on the National Curriculum for Key Stage 3 and the AQA GCSE syllabus for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. The curriculum is designed to foster creativity, technical skill, and cultural awareness.

Time Allocation for Music:

- **Year 7:** 2 hours 20 minutes every fortnight
- **Year 8:** 1 hour 10 minutes every fortnight
- **Year 9:** 1 hour 10 minutes every fortnight
- **Year 10:** 5 hours 50 minutes every fortnight
- **Year 11:** 4 hours 40 minutes every fortnight
- **Year 12:** 7 hours 10 minutes every fortnight
- **Year 13:** 7 hours 10 minutes every fortnight

Key Stage 3 Curriculum Content:

Year 7

Students explore foundation skills such as staff notation, keyboard skills, individual and ensemble performance. Students progress through a variety of topics including Samba, Instruments of the Orchestra, Structure, Gaming Music and Pop Songs.

Year 8

Students build on their understanding of rhythm, harmony, tonality and melody in a range of practical projects. These include units African Drumming, Four-Chord Songs, Minor Scales, Blues and Programme Music.

Year 9

Students further develop their composing and performing skills through topics such as Film Music, Theme and Variations, Jazz and Song Writing.

See the website for more curriculum details – [Curriculum - Helston Community College](#)

Music Qualifications:

GCSE Music (Key Stage 4, Years 10 and 11)

This focuses on: listening and appraising, performance, and composition. There are four areas of study: Western Classical Tradition from 1650 – 1910, Popular Music, Traditional Music and Western Classical Tradition since 1910.

A Level Music (Key Stage 5, Years 12 and 13)

Composing: Students learn advanced composition techniques and traditional harmony.

Performing: Students work towards performing a set of pieces amounting to no less than 10 minutes.

Listening and Appraising: 2 ½ - hour listening exam on three areas of study: Western Classical Tradition from 1650 – 1910, Pop Music or Film Music (students choice) and Jazz.

RSL (Subsidiary Diploma) in Music Technology (Key Stage 5, Years 12 and 13)

Units include:

- Digital Recording and Production
- Studio Sound Mixing
- Music Sequencing and Production
- Getting Work in Music
- Live Music Performance
- Live Sound Engineering

Partnerships:

HCC partners with ASONE, the Music Hub for Cornwall, which supports our curriculum music offerings.
Truro and Penwith Academy Trust “Super Orchestra”
Plogasnou-Helston Twinning association

Part B: Co-Curricular Music

Our co-curricular music provision is designed to encourage students to further develop their musical skills outside of lesson time. We offer a range of instrumental lessons and ensembles to cater for diverse interests and abilities.

Instrumental Tuition:

Helston Community College provides piano, strings, woodwind, brass, drums, guitar, and voice lessons. Paired lessons are available in most circumstances at a reduced price. All our peripatetic teachers are self-employed. Instrumental lesson fees are subsidised for students in the following circumstances.

- A child receiving Free School Meals
- A child In Care
- A child from a service family
- A child or parent claiming a Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- A child with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- A child studying GCSE Music
- A student studying A-Level Music receives free 30-minute individual lessons on their primary instrument.

Ensembles and Groups:

- We offer many ensemble opportunities, including the College Choir, A Capella singers, Guitar Ensemble, Jazz 1, Jazz 2, Sax Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, Marching Band, Rock School and Concert Band. Ensembles are run by a combination of Helston Community College staff and peripatetic teachers.
- Practice rooms are available on-site for students to rehearse individually or in groups. Progression and Accessibility

Our extra-curricular offerings ensure that students can progress in music beyond the classroom. We aim to make music accessible to all, regardless of prior experience. We work in close connection with ASONE (Cornwall Music Hub) and are currently one of the largest contributors to the county ensembles including Cornwall Youth Orchestra.

Music students at Helston Community College often progress on to Music Colleges or Conservatoires. We currently have one ex-student studying music at Falmouth University two ex-students in Birmingham Conservatoire, one in the Guildhall School of Music and Dance, one student in Royal Welsh and one studying for their masters at the Royal Academy in London, another ex-student has received offers from Guildhall and Trinity music colleges to study music from September 2026.

Helston Community College Music Academy Pathway

The Music Academy Pathway is an initiative which has been devised in order to promote and recruit pupils to learn an instrument which we feel, at any given time, is in decline or has diminished interest. These instruments currently include: saxophone, clarinet, flute, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, French horn, euphonium, tuba, violin, viola, cello and double bass. The aim is also to ensure there is a continued vitality of large ensemble performance and singing in college life. The scheme provides beginner students with a substantial subsidy that means they can receive 10 lessons and the loan of an instrument for just £10. Students who are already playing can join the academy and receive free workshops and masterclasses by visiting professional musicians. Academy students have the responsibility of being a reliable member of large ensembles including either KS3 or Senior Choirs.

Part C: Musical Experiences

At Helston Community College we believe that experiencing live music and performing are key components of a well-rounded musical education. All of our ensembles (except for Jazz 1) are completely inclusive and open to all students. Everyone is welcome to join one of our choirs regardless of musical experience.

We have organised trips to the Hall for Cornwall provided by ASONE that are specially tailored towards a KS3 audience.

Events and Performances

At the College, students enjoy a busy musical calendar that includes:

- **Christmas Concert** (all large ensembles plus solo performances).
- **Christmas Carol Services** (choirs and brass ensemble).
- **College Production** (biannually).
- **Spring Concert** (Jazz 1 and Jazz 2).

- **Recital Evenings** (throughout the year, for brass, woodwind, guitar, voice and drums).
- **“Melomaniacs” Concert** (Beginner Academy Students and KS3 Choir).
- **Concert Band Concert.**
- **Trip Abroad** (Jazz 1 and College choir).
- **Summer Concert** (all large ensembles plus solo performances).
- **Helstonbury** (local festival featuring Jazz 1, Jazz 2 and HCC Rock Bands).

Inclusion:

No charges are applied for music events, and all students are encouraged to participate.

Future Plans

Our goal for the coming years is to expand student participation in extra-curricular music activities and increase the number of students pursuing GCSE Music. We aim to strengthen our partnership with ASONE and linked secondary schools within the Truro and Penwith Multi-Academy Trust and continue to seek opportunities that align with our curriculum vision.

We look forward to expanding our connection with our feeder schools and provide concerts and taster sessions in order to inspire children at primary school age to take up an instrument or join a choir.

We are committed to making music education accessible to all students, regardless of their ability or SEND needs.

Further Information

For more details about our curriculum and co-curricular offerings, or to learn about opportunities for students to get involved, please contact our Head of Music, Sam Parker at sparker@helston.tpacademytrust.org