HELSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ASPIRATION · AMBITION · ACHIEVEMENT

Music Development Plan Summary

Academic Year: 2026/2027
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Local Music Hub: Hall for Cornwall (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:** 2 hours 20 minutes every fortnight
- **Year 9:** 1 hour 10 minutes every fortnight
- **Year 10:** 5 hours 50 minutes every fortnight
- **Year 11:** 5 hours 50 minutes every fortnight
- **Year 12:** 8 hours 10 minutes every fortnight
- **Year 13:** 7 hours every fortnight

Key Stage 3 Curriculum Content:

Year 7
Students explore the foundational skills of ensemble performance, musical elements and structured creativity. Through the study of popular music, samba and the works of the great composers, students gain an understanding of dynamics, rhythm, tempo, structure, melody, harmony, instrumentation and texture. Students participate in singing and learn to play the keyboard and percussion instruments. Music technology is used to record performances and compose.

Year 8
Students learn to recognise the expressive intention of music. Through the study of the Blues, West African drumming, popular music and music for film, students learn how rhythm, tempo, melody, tonality, harmony and instrumentation are manipulated for the intended effect of the music. Students participate in singing and develop their skills on the keyboard and percussion instruments. Music technology is used to compose, develop and record music.

Year 9

Students gain greater independence to rehearse, refine, compose and perform. Through the study of the great composers, electronic music and popular music, students evaluate the music elements using precise vocabulary. Students continue to learn the keyboard and use music technology to develop sequencing and production skills. Students take ownership of a group performance project where they learn to rehearse, arrange and perform collaboratively

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:
Hall for Cornwall, the Music Hub for Cornwall
Truro and Penwith Academy Trust Super Orchestra
Elmore String Quartet
Cornwall Youth Choir

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. Our visiting music teachers currently deliver 200 music lessons every week. Paired lessons are available in most circumstances at a reduced price. All our visiting music 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 and currently have over 200 students on our ensemble registers. Our enrichment offer includes the College Choir, Guitar Ensemble, Helston School Jazz Orchestra, Jazz 2, Percussion Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, Clarinet Ensemble, Flute Ensemble, String Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, Rock School and Concert Band. Ensembles are run by a combination of Helston Community College staff and visiting music teachers.
- Practice rooms are available on-site for students to rehearse individually or in groups.

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 Hall for Cornwall (Cornwall Music Hub) and are currently one of the largest contributors to the county ensembles, including Cornwall Youth Orchestra and Cornwall Youth Wind Orchestra.

Music students at Helston Community College often progress on to Music Colleges or Conservatoires. Currently, one former student is studying music at Falmouth University, two are at Birmingham Conservatoire, three at the Guildhall School of Music and Dance and one at Royal Welsh College of music. Two of our current students have already been offered places at the Guildhall School of Music and Dance and Trinity College London.

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 Helston School Jazz Orchestra) are completely inclusive and open to all students. Staff and students in all years are welcomed to join the college choir, regardless of musical experience.

Events and Performances

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

- **Year 7 Opening Night performance**
- **Christmas Concert** (all large ensembles plus solo performances)
- **Christmas Carol Service** (choirs and brass ensemble)
- **Cornwall Youth Choir Sing Up event** (College Choir)
- **College Production**
- **Spring Concert** Helston School Jazz Orchestra and Jazz 2)
- **Recital Evenings** (brass, woodwind, guitar, voice and drum kit)
- **Melomaniacs Concert** (KS3 instrumentalists and singers).
- **Concert Band Concert**
- **Trip Abroad** (Helston School Jazz orchestra)
- **Summer Concert** (all large ensembles plus solo performances)
- **Helstonbury** (local festival featuring Helston School Jazz Orchestra, 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 ourpartnership 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 theirability 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