

Music development plan summary: BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	1 st September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 st July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Samantha Leake
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Theresa Robinson
Name of local music hub	Lincolnshire Music Service

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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.

Music is taught across all Key Stages at Boston High School. It is studied by all students in Year's 7, 8 and 9 but becomes an option for GCSE in Year's 10 and 11 and for A-Level in Year's 12 and 13. The school operates a two-week timetable, and the following allocations are per fortnight:

Key Stage 3 (Year 7, 8, 9)	Key Stage 4 (GCSE Option Year 10, 11)	Key Stage (A Level Option Year 12, 13)
2 hours	5 hours	9 hours (Year 12 and 13 combined lessons)

An overview of the music curriculum for each year group can be found on the school website.

<https://www.bostonhighschool.co.uk/assets/Documents/Attachments/Music-Curriculum-Overview.pdf>

In Key Stage 3, the music curriculum has its foundations in the National Curriculum, incorporating elements from the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021). Singing and instrumental development are embedded within the curriculum alongside the key skills of Performing, Composing, Listening and Appraising. The curriculum is designed with a focus on sequencing these skills to ensure a cohesive and progressive learning experience.

In Year 7, students recap the elements of music and then explore each in turn through singing, solo and ensemble performing, composing and listening activities. Students are taught to read and write music notation as well as develop skills on the keyboard. All students in Year 7 also learn a vocal medley and are given the opportunity to perform this in an evening concert to parents. Students have access to percussion instruments and keyboards for solo and ensemble performances during lessons. They explore composition and use Sibelius music software to notate their ideas.

In Year 8, students build on their skills in reading and writing music as well as skills performing and improvising on keyboards or their own instruments as well as developing skills on the ukulele. Topics include structure, musical theatre and melody writing, where students further develop their skills in using Sibelius to notate their composition ideas.

In Year 9, students continue to develop their practical skills of performing and composing whilst developing their knowledge and listening skills through the study of the origins and development of popular music - Blues and Jazz, music in the 1950's, 60's, 70's and 80's and composing popular songs. Students have access to ukuleles, keyboards, Guitars and their own instruments to develop their skills. Sibelius is also used to notate ideas for their own song composition and more able students

Music is offered as a GCSE subject in Year 10 and Year 11 and as an A Level in Year 12 and Year 13. GCSE students follow the EDEXCEL syllabus and A Level students follow the Eduqas syllabus.

We have strong links with our local Music Hub, Lincolnshire Music Service, and the opportunities they provide to support music in all key stages including trips to career workshops and performance events.

We have excellent access to music for SEND and disabled pupils who receive the same high-quality education as other students with suitable adaptations made as required by individual students.

Students with Pupil Premium status are supported financially to learn an instrument and participate in extra-curricular activities and the extra costs this can incur.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

Lincolnshire Music Service (LMS) provide peripatetic music teachers for string, brass, woodwind, percussion and vocal tuition. This is paid for by parents and takes place during the school day. The school covers the remaining cost for Pupil Premium students in addition to the subsidy offered by LMS. Lessons are thus free for PP students. The school also covers any additional costs for exams entries and music purchases.

Students are also able to participate in ensembles and choirs provided by Boston Music Centre, which is affiliated with the Lincolnshire Music Service. This includes a Pop Choir, Jazz Orchestra and a Wind Band. BMS have secured funding which means these activities are free to students in the Boston area.

More information can be found on Lincolnshire Music Services website, <https://lincsmusicservice.org/boston-music-centre/>.

Students are also able to attend local theatre academies, for example, Blackfriars Theatre Academy, who provide tuition and performing opportunities.

Boston High School also has three weekly extra-curricular activities for students to participate in:

Senior Choir for Years 10 – 13, all welcome, any standard

Orchestra for all years - instrumental players of any standard

Junior Choir for Years 7 – 9, all welcome, any standard

Two large concerts are organised in December and July for students to perform in and showcase their efforts and abilities to parents and visitors.

In addition, the school produces a full school musical production each year with students fulfilling all roles including the live pit band to accompany the singers and dancers. The show rehearsals take place weekly after school for two hours and is performed over three nights at the end of March to students, parents and visitors. Participation in the pit band is by invitation (high performance standard is required) but auditions for main characters and being a member of the chorus is open to all members of the school community.

The school is fortunate to have two well-resourced music rooms for whole class teaching and 6 music practice rooms, each equipped with a piano and a keyboard. Students have access to these rooms at break, lunch and afterschool to practise and rehearse individually.

Part C: Musical experiences

The school offers three main performance opportunities for students in each academic year:

December – Christmas Showstoppers – featuring both choirs, orchestra, solo singers and the performance of a vocal medley by Year 7 and Year 8 students.

March – School Production – three performances over three consecutive nights of a full musical with live band accompaniment.

July – Summer Concert - featuring both choirs, orchestra, and other solos and ensembles organised by staff and students.

Each of these events are performed in the evening to an audience consisting of students, parents, families and other school visitors (e.g. governors). The Christmas Showstoppers and School Production are both ticketed events with charges made to cover licensing costs, purchase of material and hire of special sound equipment. The Summer Concert is a free concert - no charge is made to the audience.

In addition, the school takes advantage of performances by visiting musicians when opportunities arise. Trips to see performances in London are organised when possible. In recent years these have included The Royal Albert Hall, The Royal Opera House, London Theatres (Wicked) and other local concert venues in Boston, Nottingham, Lincoln and Birmingham.

For the last few years, the school have also been invited to participate in the Boston Christmas light switch on. The event is run by a local arts charity, Transported (<https://transportedart.com/>) and Boston High School have been invited to take part in the light parade that runs through the town as part of a Samba band. Transported come to the school to lead a workshop with members of a professional Samba band, before going into the town to lead the parade.

Lincolnshire Music Service provide a good range of after school music activities for singers and instrumentalists through Boston Music Centre. We actively encourage our students to participate in these activities and the valuable concert/performance experiences these provide.

In the future

We hope to continue to build on our strong music provision and offer quality music experiences for all our students.

We would like to make a trip to London to see professional shows and performances an annual event.

Further information (optional)

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 they can go to for support beyond the school.

Lincolnshire Music Service music hub has a plan for music education which is available on their website (<https://lincsmusicservice.org/>).