

Music development plan summary: Great Park Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Natalie Clark
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Katherine Billingsley
Name of local music hub	North and South Tyne and Darlington
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Newcastle Music Service

Part A: Curriculum music

All students across the two key stages have one lesson per week at Great Park Academy in our Music and practise rooms. In KS2, they study a range of instruments and styles, which entail, listening, performing and composition skills in preparation for KS3. This includes whole class Glockenspiel, Djembe drums, Ukelele and voice work. The Year 5 and 6 curriculum is created so that prior learning is built upon lesson by lesson but also topic by topic, so students not only widen their horizon of skill sets by trying new instruments from different cultures and genres but also deepen their musical learning and abilities by developing specific skill sets.

KS3 students have one lesson per week in our Music and practise rooms. They study a range of styles as they develop their listening, performing and composition skills. During lessons we give access to group music making experiences across instruments and voice. This includes whole class keyboard, guitar and sequencing software imbedded into appropriate schemes of learning. The Year 7, 8 and 9 curriculum is scaffolded so that prior learning is built upon lesson by lesson but also topic by topic, so students not only broaden their skill sets by trying new instruments but also deepen their musical learning and abilities by developing

specific skills which can support them in KS4 and beyond. For more information on our curriculum, it can be found on our website.

KS4 students in Year 10 who have chosen to study GCSE Music explore three key components of: performing, listening and composing included throughout the year. These include: Folk, Musical Theatre, Classical, African, Latin American, Pop, Romantic and Music for Film; covering a variety of instruments, soft wear and voice work.

Part B: Co-curricular music

At Great Park Academy we offer a range of extra musical opportunities for students for our extra-curricular and lesson programme. We use Newcastle Music Services and self-employed instrumental specialists to offer group, paired and/or individual lessons for Guitar, Piano, Keyboard, Violin and Singing. This is delivered within school and paid through an hourly fee, please see here for more information: [Music Partnership North, Newcastle \(musicpartnershipnorthnewcastle.co.uk\)](http://musicpartnershipnorthnewcastle.co.uk)

Our clubs run on a weekly basis including: Fusion Band and Choir which are ran free of charge and possibly more to expand in the future.

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.

Students at Great Park Academy have opportunities to take part in performances throughout the year. This includes concerts, informal performances, assemblies and/or community events.

These performances include:

- Open evenings
- GPA Open Day
- Christmas Concert (GPA Auditorium)
- Spring term performance (GPA)
- Performance at Northern Stage for Choir
- Performance in Newcastle City Centre for Choir
- Guitar pupils have performed at the Cluny

Every student who performs at the concerts have access to free tickets for their families to attend. We ask audience members to make a donation towards some events they attend if possible.

In the future

Students at Great Park Academy have the opportunity to see professional musicians perform live during Workshops and during Performing Arts trips to a Musical. There is hope to offer further professional visits to concerts also.

We hope to evolve with more instruments, opportunities and performances as we progress in the new school building in 2026-2027.

Further information (optional)

Further information on musical experiences on offer in the local area can be found on the following sites:

<https://ntmeh.org.uk/>

<https://musicpartnershipnorthnewcastle.co.uk/>

<https://theglasshouseicm.org/>