

# Music development plan summary:

## *Uppingham Community College*

### Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	October 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Carly Nicklin
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Clare Duffy / Paul Rhodes
Name of local music hub	NMPAT
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across **four areas – A curriculum music, B Extra-curricular music, choirs and ensembles and C Musical Events, Experiences and Performances**, – and what changes we are planning in **D 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.

At Uppingham Community College (UCC) students study Music for one hour per fortnight, engaging with a broad range of musical experiences Key Stage 3.

Students who opt for GCSE Music receive six hours per fortnight in both year 10 and year 11.

Music at UCC is for everyone. Students with additional needs—whether in our mainstream or mainstream plus provision—are supported to participate fully and engage with music making.

Our school curriculum for music is published on our school website for each year group online.

At Uppingham Community College the Music curriculum across Key Stage 3 and 4 is broad and varied and provides students with the opportunity to study a wide range of knowledge about musical traditions, styles and innovations from western classical music to contemporary popular music. We want to ensure every student enjoys and understands music and gains a real sense of achievement as a result. We believe that it is important that all students, whatever their musical ability, have the opportunity to improve their skills, experiencing the use of music technology and appreciate the sense of accomplishment when composing, playing or singing live music whilst having fun along the way! We actively encourage students to bring their own instruments into class lesson time in many

of our projects and encourage playing in an ensemble. By becoming involved in listening, learning and performing, we hope that all our students will develop and maintain a life-long love of music and appreciate the huge importance it has in all our lives.

In the **Autumn** term, **Year 7** explores singing, performance, keyboard skills, **Television Signature Tunes** and the use of notation. In the **Spring** term, students are introduced to musical vocabulary, rhythmic and melodic notation and **The Five Food Rhythms**. In the **Summer** term, students have the chance to explore music from a variety of **Instruments of the Orchestra**.

In the **Autumn** term, **Year 8** students are encouraged to explore the theme of **Film & Computer Game Music**, playing and composing melodies with accompaniments and understanding compositional devices. In the **Spring** term, students explore keyboard and guitar **Riffs & Hooks in Pop and Rock music**, following simple musical scores using chords, melodies, canon techniques and bass lines and incorporating the use of Music ICT. In the **Summer** term, we build instrumental skills through studying **Acoustic Guitar Playing and Techniques** as a class ensemble by introducing students to the fundamentals of playing the guitar, nurturing both individual musicianship and group learning.

In the **Autumn** term, **Year 9** topics include Riffs and Hooks, handling music ICT software, including Studio One4 with **PPK's Resurrection** as a stimulus. In the **Spring** term, students learn about music from the past and how to use Medieval Composition Techniques complimented with Sibelius software. In the **Summer** term, students have the opportunity to complete a personal study/composition project in a genre of their own choice.

We partly follow the recommendations from the March 2021 [model music curriculum](#)

At Key Stage 4 students have the option to study OCR GCSE Music (J536).

We are re-establishing the links with Northants Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT) on joint extra-curricular projects.

All of our vocal and instrumental teachers are sourced privately and are independent of NMPAT.

We have a number of students who take Graded Examinations through Rock School London (RSL), Trinity College London (TCL) and Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM).

## Part B: Extra-curricular music, choirs and ensembles.

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.

At UCC, beyond our class teaching, we offer music tuition in one-to-one individual lessons with our independent visiting instrumental and vocal teachers. These include brass, strings, woodwind, percussion as well as bass guitar, acoustic guitar, Spanish guitar, vocal and piano lessons. We give students the opportunity to enhance their musical experience and skills by attending weekly groups including:

- Ukulele Group - **The Dukes of Uke**
- Orchestral Ensemble - **The Uppingham Stars Orchestra**
- Rock School Group/s
- Choir - **The Uppingham Stars Choir**
- Solo Vocal coaching - **Sing-a-Solo**
- Annual College Production Ensemble Rehearsals - **Frozen the Musical** March 2026

- GCSE Music composition workshops, revision sessions, plus catch-up sessions during and after school
- For practice students can book rooms during lunch breaks to rehearse individually or with friends.

To support access to music lessons, we offer a small selection of brass instruments to students while they attend UCC and are receiving one-to-one instrumental lessons on site. Additionally, students may be eligible for financial support through Pupil Premium, covering up to 50% of the cost of their instrumental tuition at UCC.

Students can also pursue recognised qualifications, with the opportunity to take Rock School, Trinity and ABRSM examinations with the guidance of their private music teachers. These exams are typically held off-site or may be submitted online.

## Part C: Musical Events, Experiences and Performances

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.

At UCC, we celebrate the joy of music through a range of exciting events and performances that bring our school community together:

- **Christmas Carol Concert - *Candy Cane Lane*** (December 2025)
- **Intergenerational Christmas Concert** - bringing together students and local elderly residents *Candy Cane Lane* (December 2025)
- **Care Home Visits** - spreading Christmas cheer to those in care (December 2025)
- **Year 7 Whole Class Singing Workshops** with an external vocal specialist (date TBC)
- **Summer Showcase** - our annual showcase of instrumentalists, vocalists and dancers (June 2026)
- **Uppingham Feast** – an external public event where our musicians can choose to perform. (June 2026)
- **Annual College Production** - a major musical and dramatic collaboration. *Frozen the Musical* (March 2026)  
\* Note, funds raised from the musical concerts e.g. ticket sales and donations, help support and to extend the budget to fund the orchestra, provide new equipment and maintain existing resources.
- **Termly Success Assembly Performances** (held at Christmas, Easter, Summer) - these performances showcase our students' musical talent for the entire school community
- **Trips to Uppingham School** in conjunction with the Drama department - offering students opportunities to experience live performances and broaden their cultural horizons.

## Part D In Future Years

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

## **Redevelopment of the Music Department**

**Main classroom** - The redevelopment of the Music Department has been successfully carried out, with *most* of the planned work completed in the *summer holidays* (2025). As the footprint of the room is tight, particularly in the Computer Suite half of the Music room, it was very difficult to access to help and support the students at these workstations. The PCs have now been relocated and the benching from the middle hutch areas are around the perimeter of the classroom. This saw the need to extend the cabling system for the internet and some additional new power sources. The radiator heights needed to be dropped to facilitate this, however this is still outstanding. As a result, there are still some final touches to be made. Specifically, the return benching is yet to be finished, and additional higher/more appropriate seating is needed at the new workstations. Follow up discussions with the Site Manager are due to aid completion of the work.

**Practice room 5** - the addition of a former practice room, used as an office for one year, is hopefully due to be returned to the Music department with a potential walled off section and a new door to encompass some wasted space in the same corridor block. The former desk and filing cabinets need removed so that the music equipment can be placed in this specialist space.

### **County Music Hub Project**

We have worked with Northants Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT) on a vocal project ready for a performance in *March 2025* - The Pied Piper at De Montfort Hall, Leicester with over 500 young voices. This brought together primary schools and the two secondary state schools from across Rutland together as part of the Rutland Big Sing ending in a concert at Leicester's prestigious venue. We await the next collaborative project.

### **Inter-House Competition**

The first Inter-House Competition for musical acts, launched in *January 2025* was so successful that we intend to offer this again ready for the *Summer Term 2026*.

### **Live Orchestra Experiences**

We would like to take a group of GCSE musicians to watch a live orchestra and/or invite an orchestra to come and play at our school and/or visit the private Uppingham School and for our instrumentalists to play with their orchestra. *Spring/Summer 2026*.

### **Raising the Profile in terms of Curriculum Timetabling for the Future 2026+**

As part of the **7 features of high-quality music provision** national plan for music education, we would like to see Music lessons return to being timetabled as a curriculum lesson music of at least one hour each week at Key Stage 3. This would allow further teaching of new instruments such as guitar and world music instruments within the curriculum. The addition of practice room 5 would allow more capacity for group and band rehearsals.