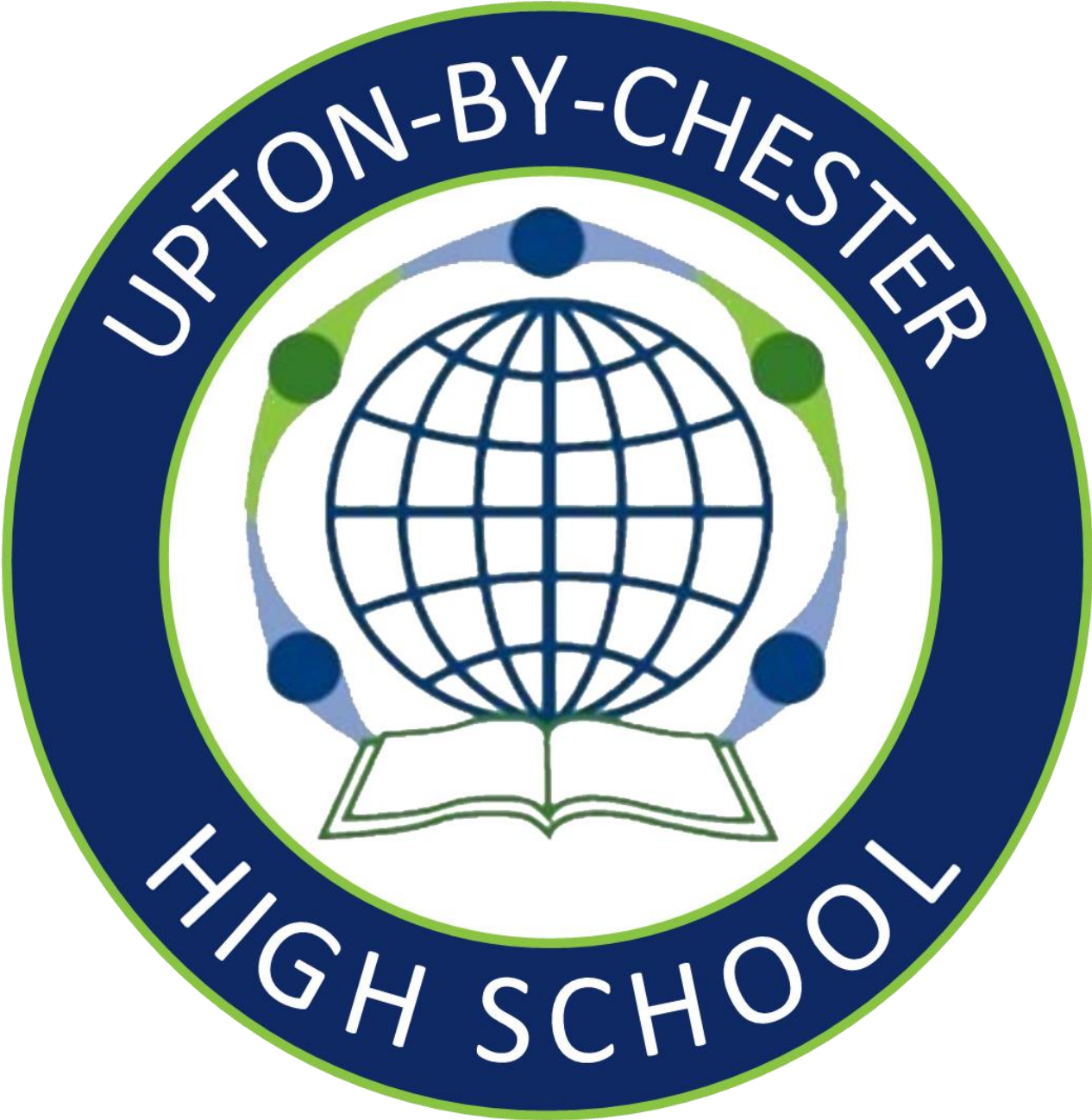


**Music development plan summary:
Upton-by-Chester High School**



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2025
Name of the school music lead	Miss C A Thompson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs K McCarthy – SLT Line Manager Performing Arts
Name of local music hub	Edsential
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	NA

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our learners across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help learners and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our learners' 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 learners can achieve.

Music at Upton-by-Chester High School, is an all-inclusive subject that encourages all of our learners to develop their musical skills, through a practical and musically analytical scheme. The music curriculum gives our learners the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge across a range of musical genres. Music at Upton-by-Chester High School aims to provide an experience and understanding for learners to become ambitious, creative adults.

In Year 7, music is offered an hour per week and to learners in Years 8 and 9, an hour per fortnight. The school is currently reviewing the time allocation in year 8 to increase this to one hour per week.

At KS4, music is offered through the EDUQAS Technical Award in Performing Arts and KS5, the OCR A Level Music.

The curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum and follows the core areas:

- ***Singing***
- ***Listening***
- ***Composing***
- ***Performing/Instrumental Performance***

Learners are given the opportunity to sing in lessons as a class, play keyboards and percussion instruments and play as a class ensemble through the year 7 Graphic Score Unit, the Year 8 keyboard skills unit and the Year 9 song writing unit. We offer an exciting experience as a musical journey comprising of lessons based around core knowledge, performance, composition and appraisal through listening and score reading.

In Year 10, learners have to produce a group performance for their UNIT 2 and are expected to either play an instrument or sing.



Part B: Co-curricular Music / Engage @ Upton Programme



This is about opportunities for learners to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how learners can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

The Engage @ Upton programme is the mechanism by which all extra curricula activities are offered in the school. Performing Arts, and music in particular, are a very strong feature of this aspect of the schools work.

Upton-by-Chester High School offer learners Instrumental lessons through private tutors and our local music hub, Edsential. These lessons are 20 minutes long and offered on a

one-to-one basis. All lessons are subsidised and learners eligible for the Pupil Premium funding may have their lessons subsidised or paid in full. Instrumental provision includes:

- **Strings**
- **Piano**
- **Keyboard**
- **Drums**
- **Woodwind**
- **Brass**
- **Voice**
- **Guitar**

Learners can opt to enter for exams from the following awarding bodies:

- **Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music**
- **Rock School**
- **Trinity College**
- **London College of Music**

We offer the loan of instruments to our learners who are starting out on their musical journey, or parents/carers can hire them from our music hub, Edsential.



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.

Our musicians take part in many school events and are well known within the local community for their exceptional performance skills. We attend shows and concerts and the highlight of the year is the International Eisteddfod in July. Our annual Christmas Concert is always a climax in our school calendar and we are proud to visit local Residential Homes during this period to share our learner's musical talent with our elderly community.

We also perform concerts around the local community and in our feeder Primary schools. Admission for these school concerts is always free of charge as we aim to celebrate the joy of music with all of our local partners.



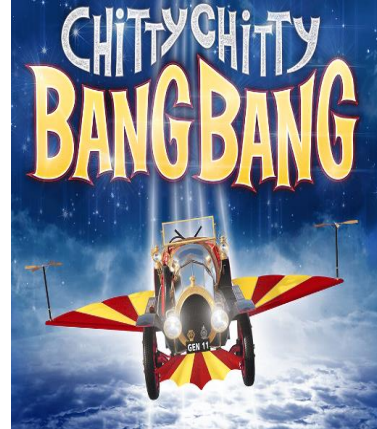
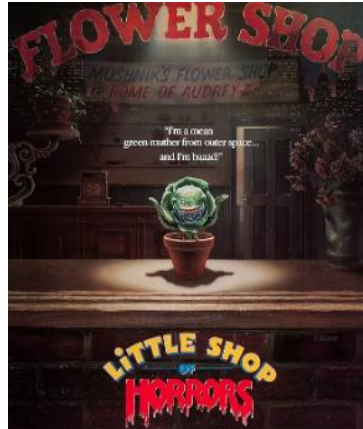
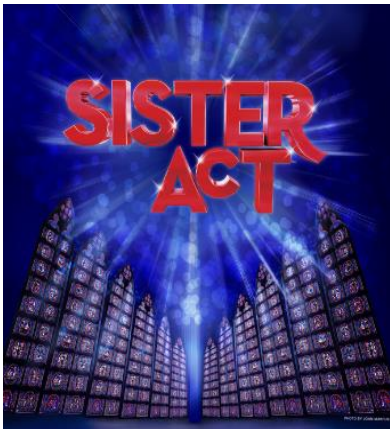
Our standout moment each year is our phenomenal Musical School Production. This extravaganza of music is open to all learners of all abilities across Upton-by-Chester High School. Learners engage in specialised Musical and Acting rehearsals to prepare them for a four-night professional performance to our community. Each year we have over 100 learners engage in this exciting opportunity and co collaborate with numerous other Departments to create a Musical experience for both cast and audience.

We have recently started developing our learners' technical abilities in Music. This involves learners operating the sound and music throughout productions, building up technical skills and using a range of sound software.



We are particularly proud to welcome Year 5 learners from our Feeder Primary Schools to attend a matinee performance of our Musical productions. This builds excellent links with our Primary Schools in terms of Music and helps to develop our Primary School learners' interest in Music and Performing Arts prior to them joining us in Year 7.

To date we have performed over 20 Musicals ranging from Sister Act to Little Shop of Horrors to Oliver! to our current production Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.



At Upton-by-Chester High School, there are opportunities to join the school choir, band and smaller ensemble groups and learners are actively encouraged to form their own groups. There are no auditions to join, but it is expected that learners wanting to join band, will have some knowledge of reading notation. Our most recent performance was at the 2023/24 Awards Evening at Storyhouse where our choir performed in front of packed audience.

We have a mentor system in place and our younger musicians are paired up with older musicians who can help them with their musical journey at Upton. We have a large music classroom, equipped with keyboards and computers and three other practise rooms, one with a drum kit.

We are lucky enough to host our Music Hub each week, where musicians from across Chester come to rehearse in the school's concert band and can also receive instrumental tuition.



In the future

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

The school is part of the Schools Rebuilding Programme (SRB) and the school rebuild is expected to start in 2025. This will allow us to significantly increase the range of specialist classrooms for music, and other performing arts areas.

In the future, we are looking to further develop links with our Feeder Primary schools and have taken choir into some of our local feeder schools to perform for them. A particular favourite of ours is going to Dorin Park, our local special school, to perform at Christmas. In the future, we are hoping to encompass more of these performances.

We currently run 2 enrichment days annually, for Year 8, that focus on Music and the Performing Arts. These bespoke workshops allow small groups of Year 8 learners to work with professional performers on singing, dance and acting. We vary the theme each year from the musical Wicked to the musical Shrek. These experiences develop learners' interests in Music and give the learners exciting performance opportunities within Upton-by-Chester High School.



The Eisteddfod in Llangollen, North Wales is a celebration of music from around the world. Prior to Covid we were regular performers at this amazing event. We are delighted to announce that we will be returning to this event during the Summer Term 2024 with our wonderful choir. Not only do our learners get the chance to perform at this event but they also have the opportunity to experience music from all around the world expanding their horizons and creative talent.

We are strongly committed to expose all learners in our school to the wonders of music be it through participation, watching or creating music.