



Music at Upton by Chester High School 2024/25



Subject Lead: Miss Clare A Thompson

SLT Link Lead: Mrs K McCarthy

Link Hub: Edsential

Part A: Curriculum Music

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 that gives our learners the opportunity to develop these skills and intent. It 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.

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. It will also encompass a variety of extra-curricular experiences for learners.

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

We also 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 of 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

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 highlight 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 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 community.

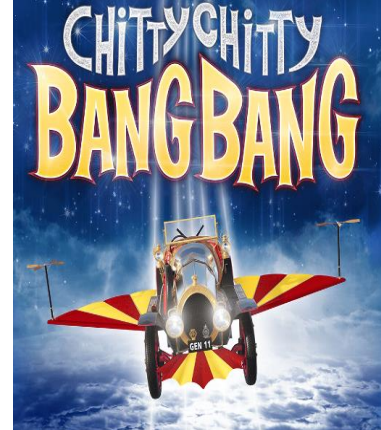
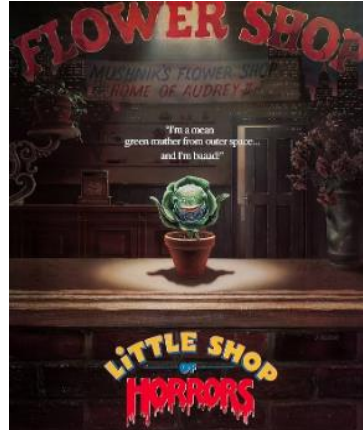


Our standout moment each year is our phenomenal Musical School Production. This extravaganza of music is open to all learners of all abilities across our school. Learners engage in specialised Musical and Acting rehearsals to prepare them for a four-night professional performance to our community. Each 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 Y5 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 Y7.

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, there are opportunities to join the school choir, band and smaller ensemble groups and 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.



Future Plans

In the future, we are looking to increase the timetabled provision for Years 8 and 9 and increase this to one hour per week.

We are also developing 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 Y8 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 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.