

Music development plan summary:
St Catherine's 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	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Matthew Healey
Name of local music hub	Create Music

Curriculum music

At St Catherine's College, students study a wide range of musical styles and genres. Music plays a vital role in their daily lives, with every student encouraged to participate in music-making and to develop their musical abilities to the highest level. The department strongly believes that "Everyone Feels Musical"; therefore, every lesson instils confidence in students' musical abilities through exciting performance and compositional projects. With a school ensemble, rock and pop bands, vocal groups, and numerous exciting music concerts and projects, the Music Department is one of the busiest and liveliest departments in the school.

<https://www.stcatherines.college/page/?title=Music&pid=309>

Music Curriculum Plans

Year 7: [Click to view](#)

Year 8: [Click to view](#)

Year 9: [Click to view](#)

Year 10 and 11: [Click to view](#)

Co-curricular music

Music is a unique form of communication that can change the way students feel, think, and act. Music forms part of an individual's identity, and positive interaction

with music can develop students' competence as learners and increase their self-esteem.

Students are provided with rich opportunities to perform, starting in lessons where all students regularly sing and play instruments. As they progress through Year 7, they have opportunities to play all of the instruments available, including ukuleles, keyboards, Apple Macs, guitars, bass guitars, xylophones, drum kits, and percussion. By Year 9, students often specialise in an instrument (or voice) and use this to access the music curriculum.

In addition to their lessons, students have various options for learning an instrument. In Year 7, all students attend a workshop in which a variety of instruments are showcased, with information about the instruments and how to access lessons. This workshop is led by Create Music, our local hub for lessons and workshops.

Additionally, we collaborate with a private singing teacher, Lavinia Salisbury, who teaches many students in one-to-one and group lessons every week. Lavinia also works with us to enhance our choirs.

We offer regular music clubs to further develop students' musicianship. This year, we will run a weekly choir, house band, and music technology club, plus a new songwriter club.

Students are also welcomed into the department during lunchtimes, where many will form their own bands or work on computer-based projects. Students just need to speak to Mr Healey to arrange a time for this.

All information on how to join any club or access additional instrumental lessons can be found in the music department or on the school website.

Musical experiences

Each year, there are frequent and worthwhile opportunities to perform music at St Catherine's College. This year will see the return of our Summer Festival, a whole-school celebration of music and the arts. The festival takes place in the school grounds and invites the local community to come together to enjoy music and participate in the many activities and events our students put on. Music students are all encouraged to rehearse and prepare performances, and many will take to the stage to perform, either in their own bands, as soloists, or in the many department-led pieces we will organise.

Our Christmas Concert this year is going to be a highlight, taking place in the school hall. It's a wonderful chance for many of our talented musicians to perform and share the results of their hard work.

For the first time, we're bringing together our choir and our house band. Even more exciting, we are collaborating with the Drama and Dance departments! This bold move unites the performing arts, allowing even more students to be part of our festive Christmas celebration.

We're also thrilled about two major new initiatives we're launching, later this year:

1. Student-Led "Radio Revision" Programme: This new podcasting project will give students their own platform to create engaging, audio-based material for exam revision.
2. DJing Joins the Curriculum: We are introducing DJing into our curriculum for the first time ever! Get ready to learn the art of the mix. This is going to be a fantastic addition.