



Music Development Plan

Summary

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 26
Date this summary was published	1 st September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	31 st July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Frances Thompson GRSM Hons. LRAM LTCL QTS (RAM TCM GSMD)
Name of other members of the Music Department	Dinah Allan BA – (RSAMD) Music Technician
Name of local music hub	Lincolnshire
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Lincolnshire Music Service

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

At Caistor Grammar School [CGS] all academic lessons last one hour and ten minutes in duration. All students at KS3, Years 7,8 and 9, receive one whole class music curriculum lesson a week. KS4 students who opt for GCSE receive two lessons a week and KS5 students who opt for A Level receive 4 lessons a week. These lessons are supported by additional tutoring opportunities in theory, performance, and composition as the students' progress through the School. We deliver a challenging and exciting curriculum in KS3 where students have the opportunity to discover and explore different musical styles and traditions, develop their knowledge of the social and historical context of music, become confident understanding and applying music theory and develop their confidence, skill and expertise in composition and performing. Singing is greatly encouraged in lessons and our students have the opportunity to learn to play instruments including the keyboard, ukulele, and percussion instruments in whole-class music making. Details of the music curriculum are published on the CGS website.

There is also the opportunity for students to learn an instrument privately during school time. Private instrumental lessons are provided by a team of visiting specialist music teachers who help students prepare for instrumental and singing exams. Individual and group lessons are delivered by our own specialist teachers in the music department and by visiting teachers from Lincolnshire Music Service [LMS]. Instrumental lessons include piano, violin and viola, violoncello, brass, woodwind including clarinet, flute, saxophone, bass, electric and acoustic guitar, and drum kit. Students are encouraged to enter for external exams through ABRSM, Trinity College and Rock School and we can organise the administration of exams. Many students progress to take ABRSM Diploma exams. Instrumental lessons are available by following the application procedure published on the CGS website under Parents, Music Lessons. LMS has a wide range of instruments which students can loan when they are having lessons. Details of the cost of hiring an instrument can be found on the LMS website. The administration and timetabling for individual music lessons is done in school and students are informed of times in the daily bulletin. LMS lesson times are advertised on Speed Admin once a student is registered for lessons. Students are supported in their studies by school staff as they progress to studying at specialist music colleges, Saturday schools and playing in orchestras. Many instrumental ensembles are entirely student-devised and student-led; they happen at all times of day from early in the morning until the school day has finished. The administration and timetabling for these are done in school and by LMS. Students can request for their PP funding to be used towards the cost of their lessons. We timetable lessons at KS3 on a rotational basis; at KS4/5, lessons are timetabled during private study periods, break, lunch, or before/after school if possible. Some students are involved with a significant amount of external music-making, attending the Junior Colleges including the RAM and RNCM. We have students who play in the National Youth Orchestra and National Youth String Orchestra. They also play with local orchestras such as the Lincolnshire Youth Orchestra, the N.E. Lincolnshire MAPAS

Orchestra and Folklinks. More information about the cost of lessons can be found on the CGS website, under Parents – Music Lessons.

Performance is a key attribute in many of our lessons across KS3-5. All students in Year 7 perform in the Autumn Concert, a public performance held in the autumn term. All the modules that we teach have a performance element, as well as developing the key skills of analysis, theory, and composition. We have Sibelius on every computer in the music department. We follow the Edexcel GCSE and A- level specifications, details of which can be found on the CGS Curriculum website.

Part B: Co-curricular music

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

CGS offers a wide range of extra – curricular performance and learning opportunities. These include the CGS Orchestra, Senior Strings, Junior Strings, string quartets and other smaller ensembles including groups that cater for guitar and percussion players. We have a Junior Choir, Chamber Choir and a Whole School Choir who all perform regularly throughout the year. Composition and music clubs are held daily. Leadership is an important part of learning at CGS, and students are given the opportunity to conduct and lead ensembles to prepare them for public performance. We also run a Performing Arts Leadership Programme for 6th Form Students. We have groups catering for students of all ages and ability levels. There is something for everyone and we welcome and encourage participation. CGS has a number of practice rooms and performance spaces including L2 - a large classroom and performance space, the 'Grand Piano Room', the 'Piano Room', the 'Guitar Room', The 'Woodwind Room', the 'Drum Room' and the 'String Room'. The music classroom is a larger space with a suite of computers, with movable tables to allow for a rehearsal space. Students are given the opportunity to provide background music and formal performances at open days, celebration evenings, alumnae events and more. As a collaboration between the Music and Drama departments, CGS puts on a Musical Theatre Production every year. Students can perform as soloists or in the chorus, be part of the orchestra or band, or can help to compose/arrange music. In the last few years, we have performed Beauty and the Beast, Evita, The Adams Family, Anything Goes, Sondheim's masterpiece, Sweeney Todd and Crazy for You. This year we will perform 'Grease'. There are opportunities for students to join the 'Tech Team' where students are trained in sound, lighting and stage production and we are very proud of the students who have continued to work professionally in theatres across the country, including the Royal Albert Hall, prolific theatres in the West End and for the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford upon Avon.

The annual House Music competition gives students the chance to compete individually or as a group to earn points for their House, with the ensemble finals being a high-spirited and energetic celebration of music-making and collaboration. This is a student – led event culminating in an evening performance with students ranging from Year 7 to 13. We also have termly public concerts which provide an opportunity for students to perform. See below.

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.

CGS has a vibrant and rich musical calendar.

Performances include concerts, competitions, and services. We perform a full-scale musical / show every year which is staged at Caistor Town Hall.

Performances for 2025/26 include:

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Remembrance Service

GREASE – Annual production – 3 performance nights

Junior House Music Competition (Newbolt Centre)

Senior House Music Competition (Newbolt Centre)

House Music Evening Performance

Autumn Concert – (Newbolt Centre)

Christmas Evening (Caistor Parish Church)

Christmas Service (Caistor Parish Church)

String Soiree

Easter Service (Caistor Parish Church)

CGS Fringe.

Summer Concert.

Our students also provide music and formal performances at Open Days, celebration evenings, alumnae events and more. The annual production is in collaboration between the music and drama departments.

In the future

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

The teaching of KS3 music at Caistor Grammar School aims to engage and inspire students to develop a love, understanding and appreciation of music in its many forms, whilst developing the necessary skills to succeed as confident performers and composers. We encourage all students to participate in musical activities, therefore increasing their self-confidence, creativity, and sense of achievement. We aim to enrich student's lives by developing their knowledge and appreciation of different styles of music, embracing music from different cultures and traditions. The music curriculum is designed to give students the opportunity to develop their working knowledge and understanding of the elements of music through performing, composing, listening, and appraising. The course covers a wide variety of music drawn from many different traditions, including music by Baroque, Classical Romantic and 20th Century composers and explores popular genres including musical theatre, film, and song writing. Each unit of work gives students the opportunity students to perform as soloists or in ensembles, developing their instrumental and vocal skills with an emphasis on fluency, control, and expression. Students are taught music notation and graded music theory throughout the KS3 course and students use Sibelius and other music software create their own compositions. Students are encouraged to participate in termly concerts and services. The music curriculum is built on but exceeds the National Curriculum and New Model Music Curriculum.

At the heart of our curriculum is the core principle that progress is based on what students know and understand. Our curriculum philosophy is one which ties in with the knowledge-engaged theory. This sees knowledge as underpinning and enabling the application of skills, and that both are key to successful progress. The National Curriculum and New National Music Curriculum are used as our starting point at KS3, as are exam specifications at GCSE and A-Level. We have identified the substantive knowledge that we want students to acquire, and our subject specific skills are the strategies which allow students to develop their knowledge, solve problems or to apply their knowledge to new contexts.

Music at CGS is valued and well supported by the Governing Body, Headteacher, SLT and Staff. Our department is highly visible within the school; concerts are ambitious and very well attended; we are constantly developing and increasing our range of resources and equipment, including computer hardware and software.

We are working to increase the number of students who progress from KS3 to KS4 and from KS4 to KS5 and as a result we constantly review schemes of learning which are the subject of considerable revision and modification each year.

Our aim is to re-introduce brass teaching in the school and increase participation in other lunchtime ensembles including guitar ensemble club.

Further information

CGS has musical links with MAPAS in N.E. Lincolnshire and with Lincolnshire Music Service hub.