



**The Chalfonts Community College**

*Success is an Attitude!*

# **Music Development Plan**

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**2025 - 2026**

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## Summary 2025-2026

(Published June 2025 | Review June 2026)

At The Chalfonts Community College, Music is an integral and highly valued component of school life. Key Stage 3 music is delivered via a comprehensive curriculum involving one hour of dedicated lesson time per week.

Our curriculum is designed to foster holistic musicianship:

- **Performance:** Students develop proficiency on the keyboard, voice, and band instruments, including drum kit, piano, bass, and guitar.
- **Composition:** Creative skills are nurtured through industry-standard software, utilising **GarageBand** during lessons and **Soundtrap.com** as a sophisticated homework tool.
- **Listening & Appraisal:** Students engage in the analytical study of diverse musical genres, ranging from Classical to Hip-Hop, and Folk to Heavy Metal.

Beyond the classroom, we cultivate a culture of independent learning. The Music Department remains an accessible and inclusive environment during break times, lunchtimes, and after school, encouraging students of all ages to utilise the facilities for personal practice and development.

### Part A: Curriculum Music

The Key Stage 3 Music curriculum at The Chalfonts Community College is rigorous, inclusive, and fully informed by the **Department for Education's Model Music Curriculum (March 2021)**. The curriculum is published online and is designed to be accessible to all students, making sensitive and specific provisions for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

#### Core Curriculum Strands:

- **Vocal Development:** Students cultivate singing skills as a whole-class ensemble, focusing on unison and harmony. This foundation allows many students to progress to lead vocalist roles within smaller ensembles.
- **Instrumental Skills:**
  - **Keyboard:** Focus is placed on proper fingering techniques for both chordal accompaniment and melodic lines.
  - **Strings:** Instruction is provided on ukulele, guitar, and bass guitar, with an emphasis on correct posture and technique to facilitate advanced progression.
  - **Percussion:** Students gain practical experience with African drums, Samba drums, and the drum kit, ensuring exposure to a diverse range of rhythmic traditions.
- **Music Technology:** We place significant value on digital musicianship. Students are afforded the opportunity to compose, edit, and record music using **GarageBand** and **Logic** on Apple Mac computers.

## Key Stages 4 and 5: Pathways

- **Years 10 & 11:** We currently deliver the **AQA GCSE Music** specification.
- **Years 12 & 13:** We offer the **RSL Diploma**, providing a vocational pathway for advanced musicians.

## Part B: Co-Curricular Music

Our co-curricular programme is designed to extend learning beyond the classroom through specialist tuition and ensemble performance.

**Instrumental Tuition:** Our team of visiting music teachers provides specialist one-to-one tuition on a wide array of instruments, including piano, guitar, bass, saxophone, trumpet, voice, and drum kit.

### Ensembles and Clubs:

- **Choir:** The College Choir, comprising over 30 members, is a central pillar of our community engagement. The group regularly undertakes outreach projects, including performances at local care homes and primary schools.
- **Instrumental Bands:** The **School Jazz Band** rehearses on Monday afternoons, and the **Wind Band** meets on Wednesday afternoons.
- **Student-Led Groups:** Rock bands are established within each year group, with students encouraged to practise collaboratively at least once a week.
- **Clubs:** A dedicated Keyboard Club operates during lunchtime.

**Facility Access:** To support student development, rehearsal spaces are available for booking:

- Before school (from 08:00)
- During break and lunchtimes
- After school (until 16:00)

All ensembles are provided with performance platforms via our scheduled termly concerts.

## Part C: Musical Experiences

We are committed to immersing students in live musical culture. Students are actively encouraged to attend after-school concerts and are frequently exposed to the rehearsal processes of their peers. Within the KS3 curriculum, performance is embedded as a core value; regular performances by both teachers and students are standard practice to build confidence and stagecraft. We are currently planning a formal excursion to attend a live professional music performance during the 2025-2026 academic year.

## In the Future

Our strategic vision for the Music Department involves the continued expansion of our provision and resources:

- **Specialist Tuition:** We aim to expand our roster of visiting music teachers to offer a broader range of specialist instrumental lessons.
- **Enrichment:** Trips to live music venues are to become a fixed feature of the annual calendar. Additionally, we plan to launch an inter-house 'Battle of the Bands' competition in Easter 2026.
- **Music Technology:** A key priority is the expansion of Music Technology resources. Next year, we intend to enhance our computer provision, establish a dedicated Music Production Club, and explore the introduction of specific GCSE and A Level courses focused on Music Technology.

**School Music Lead:** Mr D Playford

**Local Music Hub:** BMT (Buckinghamshire Music Trust)