



Proposed Department Improvement Plan for Music (March 2026 to July 2028)

Music plays a central role in the academic, cultural, and personal development of students at Biddulph High School. This plan sets out a clear strategy for improving outcomes, introducing and embedding A-level Music, strengthening instrumental uptake, increasing performance opportunities, and developing sustainable partnerships across the Biddulph Pyramid, the PET, Higher Education, and the music industry.

Departmental Priorities

- 1. Quality of Education*
- 2. Personal Development*
- 3. Leadership and Management*
- 4. Sixth Form (A-level Music)*

1. Quality of Education

1.1 Curriculum is clearly sequenced from Year 9 to Year 13. Review and refine KS3-KS4 schemes of learning to ensure progression aligned to GCSE and A-level requirements.

Timeline: March '26 to July '26 with annual review

1.2 Gaps in knowledge are identified and closed for all learners. Introduce half-termly common assessments, diagnostic listening and theory tasks, and retrieval practice across KS3-KS5.

Timeline: March '26 to July '28

1.3 Independent practice supports improved outcomes. Standardise homework and practice expectations including listening logs, composition journals, and retrieval tasks.

Timeline: Ongoing with termly review

1.4 A-level Music is embedded with strong engagement and retention. Refine and deliver A-level Music curriculum drawing on Higher Education teaching experience. Establish clear expectations for independent study, wider listening, academic writing, and performance standards.

Timeline: March '26 to July '28

2. Personal Development

2.1 Students understand the relevance of Music to future study and careers. Embed careers education into KS3-KS5. Invite guest speakers from HE and the music industry.

Timeline: March '26 to July '28

2.2 Increased participation in instrumental and extra-curricular music. Increase instrumental uptake through assemblies, performances, parental engagement, and Entrust alignment.

Timeline: March '26 to July '27 (growth), September '27 (sustainability)



2.3 Performance, competition, and cultural capital are strengthened. Establish an annual programme of concerts including: PET Christmas Concert and a BHS Summer Concert. Promote and support student entry into local, regional, and national young musician competitions (solo and ensemble). Use competitions to raise aspiration, profile excellence, and celebrate achievement.

Timeline: annual concerts; competitions launch March '26 to July '26, expand September '26 to July '28

3. Leadership and Management

3.1 Strong transition and aspiration across the Biddulph Pyramid. Introduce visit days to first and middle schools. Establish a 'Biddulph Music Network' including shared concerts and workshops.

Timeline: March '26 to July '28

3.2 Effective partnership working within the Trust. Continue to foster collaborations with Moorside High School and Stoke Sixth Form College through shared performances, moderation, and CPD.

Timeline: March '26 to July '28

3.3 Instrumental provision supports curriculum and progression. Align peripatetic teaching with curriculum priorities and performance opportunities. Change instrumental lesson provider from Music for Life to Entrust.

Timeline: March '26 to September '26

4. Sixth Form (A-level Music)

4.1 A-level Music is aspirational and sustainable. Promote KS5 Music through KS4 performances, concerts, and option guidance. Showcase A-level students across PET and public performances.

Timeline: March '26 to July '28

4.2 Students benefit from HE and industry expertise. Invite guest performers, composers, and studio professionals. Organise visits to universities, conservatoires, and studios.

Timeline: Ongoing

Overview of Proposed Plan

Year 1: Establishment and Foundations (March 2026 - July 2026)

- Launch revised curriculum focus, introduce concert programme, begin competition entries, and secure instrumental growth.

Year 2: Embedding and Growth (September 2026 - July 2027)

- Embed A-level Music, expand ensembles, increase competition success, and strengthen PET-wide performance profile.

Year 3: Sustainability and Profile (September 2027 - July 2028)

- Secure sustainability, establish Music as a flagship subject, and position students for progression into HE and industry pathways.