

# Music development plan summary: Brentford School for Girls

Brentford School for Girls (BSFG) is a smaller than average, outer London academy serving the multicultural, local communities of Brentford, Ealing and Hounslow. Our school's aim is to provide an outstanding, supportive and fully inclusive education for all its pupils in order to develop the 'Brentford Girl' of the future. BSFG has 786 students, with 10% of students receiving SEN support, 26.3% being eligible for pupil premium, and 56% EAL.

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Kate Martin
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jessica Humphries
Name of local music hub	Hounslow Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	University of West London Music Department (through Hounslow Schools)

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

## Part A: Curriculum music at Brentford School for Girls

### Introduction

The Music Department is currently led by one highly qualified and experienced music specialist, Ms Kate Martin.

The Music Department has one large teaching space, and three practice rooms that are equipped with pianos and drum kits. The main music room has 15 keyboards, a Samba kit,

30 ukuleles, guitars, and a variety of pitched and unpitched percussion. Music technology is accessed via BandLab on school laptops, with 15 MIDI keyboards.

Our KS3 curriculum is designed so that students discover, explore and experience the music of the world through performing, composing, listening and understanding in a variety of different contexts. Students develop confidence as musicians through directed, independent and collaborative learning and rehearsal, and given regular opportunities to perform, create and listen to music that challenges their understanding, musical and interpersonal skills, and resilience. Building on their KS2 experience, students will learn about music theory and notation, develop a deeper understanding of the world, of their own views and feelings, and of others' perspectives and cultures through critical engagement with a range of genres.

### **Lessons at KS3 and KS4**

Students at KS3 receive one lesson a week in music. The Schemes of Work are designed to inspire and challenge students to develop a critical engagement with music. and to ensure that they acquire the skills to perform, compose and listen with discrimination. Using the Model Music Curriculum (2021) as a starting point, students sing as a whole class from the beginning of Year 7, which aids their transition from primary to the secondary music classroom, and opportunities are found throughout KS3 to continue singing in the classroom as an important focus. Students are also introduced to the elements of music, which provides the basic vocabulary for their musical journey through the school. Additionally, there are many opportunities for students to learn an instrument through whole class learning including the keyboard, the ukulele and samba classes.

Students at KS4 receive three lessons a week in music. They take the Vocational Qualification in Performing Arts Level 1/2 (Eduqas) and follow the Music route. The course is 100% coursework, and students prepare three units over the two-year course. In the first year, they prepare one performance of a piece of their own choice, and a free composition, both of which are presented to an audience. In the second year, they take their final unit, Performing Arts in Practice. Students have access to music lessons with Hounslow Music Hub and use Music technology to help all succeed at composition.

All students in all key stages are issued with books and an assessment record booklet with clear descriptors on how to achieve during units of work. Knowledge organisers with concise content, keywords and characteristics of each unit help students to retain prior information and prepare for assessment. Music Technology has been included in the curriculum in both Year 7 and Year 8 so that students develop the necessary skills in both recording and sequencing to compose using DAW BandLab for Education.

<https://www.brentford.hounslow.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum+guides+by+subject&pid=897>

## Part B: Extra-curricular music at Brentford School for Girls

At BSFG, we provide opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, to ensure that pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum. All students in all years are encouraged to discover and develop their own musical interests and talents by participating in extracurricular clubs and performances throughout the year.

### **The Hounslow Music Hub**

The school partners with our local music hub in Hounslow to organise music peripatetic teachers to come in and teach a wide range of instruments each term. Lessons are offered on an individual or shared basis, and at present, we have students learning strings, voice, piano, guitar and woodwind. Students with pupil premium can receive financial assistance, whilst music students can apply for funding from the school.

### **Extracurricular clubs**

There are several extracurricular music clubs for students to join, which run at lunchtime and after school.

#### **Keyboard Club - lunchtime**

To extend provision for KS3 as learning the keyboard is a primary instrument of their curriculum. It is also open for KS4 music students to extend their learning, as well as others who would enjoy learning the instrument.

#### **Violin Club - lunchtime**

For KS3 and KS4 students who would like to learn the violin or have extra practice at playing if learning outside the classroom.

#### **Brentford Singers (The school choir) - lunchtime/after school**

To build singing skills for performances in the School Musical, Christmas Concert and the Arts Festival, as well as external events.

#### **Rock Band – lunchtime**

For all students who would like to learn skills to play as part of a band, whether drumming, guitar, keyboard, bass, voice.

#### **The School Orchestra – after school**

For those students who learn instruments both in and out of school, who would like to play ensemble pieces.

Students are encouraged to use the practice rooms, which may be booked for lunchtime rehearsal, or after school. Instrumental loan is available from Hounslow music hub and from the school for holiday rehearsal where necessary.

## Part C: Musical experiences

At BSFG, we offer musical events throughout the year, to ensure that all students can perform either as a soloist or as part of a group. We also organise trips to professional concerts and musical venues outside of school.

## **Performances at school for 2025/2026:**

### **Autumn term**

#### **The Christmas concert (for KS3, KS4, KS5)**

This offers an opportunity for group performances from class, other ensembles and soloists.

#### **The Kew Sinfonia Christmas concert**

Following last year's success, where we sang music from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker, we are joining up with Kew Sinfonia again, performing music from film favourites like Home Alone and The Snowman, as well as Christmas Carols.

#### **KS4 Performances**

Exam students also give recital performances of their accumulated work from throughout the year.

### **Spring term**

#### **The School Musical**

This is an acting/singing large-scale event which sees the arts coming together to create a yearly spectacular! Recent events have included The Little Mermaid, Legally Blonde, Moana and the Lion King! This year we are doing Finding Nemo and rehearse twice a week.

#### **KS4 Compositions**

Exam students give performances of their compositions, composed as part of their music coursework.

### **Summer term**

#### **The Brentford School Arts Festival**

This demonstrates the culmination of a year's work through all the arts from Textiles, Film, Art, Drama and Music. The music outside stage offers an opportunity (weather permitting!) for students to perform as soloists and ensembles to over 400 visitors.

### **Other musical events and workshops throughout the school year:**

#### **Hounslow Battle of the Bands**

Organised by the Hounslow schools, each school in the Hounslow area is invited to put forward a band for an evening performance. In June 2024, this event took place at the University of West London (UWL).

#### **University of West London (UWL).**

The music production and industry department of UWL has partnered with Hounslow schools, and offers in-school workshops in music production, songwriting, and music industry practices, all of which have been of great benefit to our KS4 students.

## Planned trips, excursions and workshops for 2025/2026

**“The Entitled Sons”** The band perform at the school before leading a discussion of Mental Health. A joint venture with PSHE (KS4/KS4)

**Abba Voyage**, Abba Arena, Olympic Park (KS3)

**Future Makers Concert**, Royal Albert Hall (KS3)

Royal Opera House Schools’ Matinee (Turandot) (Music clubs/KS4/KS5)

**“A day in the life” tour**, Royal Albert Hall (tbc)

**Songwriting workshop**, University of West London

## In the future

We have several new initiatives in the music department for the 2025/2026 year.

**The School Orchestra** is a new club, to provide a group for instrumentalists who take lessons both in and out of school.

**Music Ambassadors** for KS3/KS4 and KS5 are chosen to assist with clubs and planning for concerts. They will bring a student voice to music clubs and concerts.

**Instrumental lessons** run by the school are planned for those students who would not otherwise have the opportunity to take lessons, for reasons of cost.

We continue to work closely with the ASD/SEND Department, to encourage and support instrumental lessons for students with additional needs. We also utilise the PP budget to support disadvantaged students so that all the girls can access opportunities offered through the music provision.

## Further information

Hounslow Music Service (Please book lessons using the top right-hand link).

<https://www.hounslowmusic.org.uk/>

University of West London Music Department

<https://www.uwl.ac.uk/course/undergraduate/recording-mixing-and-production?start=995&option=33>