

Music development plan summary: Cowley International College

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Corey Gerrard
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Daniel Watkins
Name of local music hub	St Helens Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/a

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

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

At Cowley International College, our music curriculum is carefully crafted to enrich the musical education of our students across all key stages, ensuring accessibility and support for disabled pupils and those with special educational needs (SEND). Our curriculum is informed by both the statutory National Curriculum for Music and the Model Music Curriculum, providing a structured framework that promotes mastery of essential music skills and knowledge. This is based on the endpoints which we have created from the Model Music Curriculum, developed over the last year. These endpoints inform our assessment practices and guide the redevelopment of new topics and schemes of work at Key Stage 3, ensuring that our curriculum remains dynamic and responsive to educational standards and student needs.

Our curriculum is planned so that pupils can easily progress onto KS4 music, KS5, and further study in the performing arts. Each topic is designed to develop key skills, serving as building blocks that pupils continue to develop throughout the curriculum as they progress through the year. By emphasising the development of these core skills in

each topic, we ensure that students build a strong foundation, enabling them to confidently advance to higher key stages and expand on their musical learning. We provide all pupils with a balanced diet of musical education, focusing on composition, listening, performing, singing, and music technology. This ensures that they gain a well-rounded set of skills and experiences, preparing them for a variety of musical paths.

Our curriculum is based upon practical learning, hands-on experiences and active engagement with music. We continue to develop our curriculum and schemes of work based on areas that need development, informed by our assessment of pupils' learning. Additionally, we introduce new topics based on pupils' musical interests, ensuring that our curriculum remains relevant and exciting for our students. This structured approach also guarantees that students have access to specialist music equipment and practice rooms, enhancing their practical skills and allowing for creative exploration in a dedicated musical environment.

By continually refining our curriculum and introducing new and engaging topics, we ensure that our students are not only learning but are also inspired to pursue their musical interests and talents further. This progressive and student centered approach ensures that all pupils, regardless of their starting point, can achieve their full potential in music.

KS3 Music Provision

At Key Stage 3, students benefit from comprehensive music education where each year group receives one hour of music tuition per week. Our Performing Arts curriculum integrates foundational skills from KS1 and KS2, emphasising a diverse range of music styles and genres. Students engage in singing, performing in class bands, exploring classical remixes, experimenting with Samba rhythms, analysing film music, developing keyboard skills, and engaging in song writing and set song performances. This curriculum is underpinned by established endpoints and component knowledge, facilitating clear learning progression and assessment criteria.

Throughout their Key Stage 3 journey, students also participate in whole-class ensemble teaching, which enhances their ensemble skills and fosters a collaborative approach to music-making. Our partnerships with local music hubs and other music education organisations further enrich the curriculum, providing additional opportunities for students to participate in workshops, performances, and competitions.

Y7 Music Provision

In Year 7, the music curriculum at Cowley International College is designed to cultivate skills in composing, performing, listening, singing, and music technology. Students engage in a variety of activities that deepen their understanding of music theory, enhance their vocal and instrumental abilities, and develop their proficiency in using

music technology to create and manipulate sounds. This holistic approach prepares students to appreciate and participate in music with creativity and confidence.

Students in Y7 study the following topics:

Find Your Voice

In Year 7, students at Cowley International College embark on a journey to develop their vocal skills through engaging explorations in music. They begin by delving into the world of pop music mashups, where they learn to blend popular songs into creative and harmonious performances. This fosters not only their vocal abilities but also their understanding of contemporary music styles and techniques. Alongside mastering pop mashups, students focus on essential voice warm-up techniques, ensuring they approach singing with healthy practices that support long-term vocal development. Additionally, they explore the art of singing in 3-part rounds, honing their ability to harmonize and listen effectively within a group setting.

Becoming a Musician

Following their vocal training, students transition into becoming well-rounded musicians through a comprehensive exploration of instrumental and theoretical music skills. They deepen their understanding of music's fundamental elements, including melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, and dynamics. Through the study of rhythmic notation and the treble and bass clefs, students gain proficiency in reading and interpreting musical scores, preparing them for future musical endeavours. Keyboard skills are also a focal point, with students starting with iconic pieces like "Oh When the Saints" and "Sweet Dreams," progressing based on their individual pace and proficiency.

Classical Remix

In recognition of the evolving landscape of the music industry, students at Cowley International College also immerse themselves in music technology. The school emphasizes the importance of these skills in contemporary music practice and live performances. One of the innovative projects they undertake is the exploration of 'Classical Remix,' inspired by the popularity of Classical Pop Orchestra concerts. Students listen to diverse works by Baroque and Classical composers, culminating in the creation of a remix of "Ode to Joy." They explore how different musical elements such as form, texture, dynamics, style, and instrumentation can be manipulated to create new interpretations of classical compositions.

Uku' Can Play

In 'Uku' Can Play', students explore playing full chords on the keyboard and ukulele to perform a range of different pop songs using primary triads. They master songs like "Shake It Off" and other popular selections, learning to sing and play simultaneously in small group ensembles that include vocalists, keyboard players, and ukulele players.

As their skills progress, pupils also have the opportunity to expand into guitar, drums, and bass. Initially working in class ensembles, students eventually transition into small groups to share their performances with the class, fostering collaboration and ensemble performance skills.

Programme Music

In the topic of Programme Music, students combine their composition skills with their knowledge of music elements to create a piece based on a given stimulus. They explore listening to examples of programme music such as compositions by Eleanor Alberga and Camille Saint-Saëns. To kickstart their compositions, pupils create storyboards as stimuli, sparking their creativity and guiding their musical narratives. Using the pentatonic scale, students collaborate in pairs to compose two contrasting sections for their compositions. This project not only enhances their composition skills but also encourages critical thinking and storytelling through music.

This mastery curriculum is designed not only to build students' confidence in vocal and instrumental performance but also to nurture their creativity, critical listening skills, and appreciation for the rich diversity of musical expression.

Y8 Music Provision:

In Year 8 at Cowley School, students engage in a diverse music curriculum that enhances their skills and appreciation across various genres. They explore Film Music, using music technology to compose pieces that enhance cinematic storytelling. Song Writing focuses on composition using primary triads and exploring different song structures, while Samba introduces students to Brazilian rhythms through hands-on percussion and ensemble work. The Hooks and Riffs topic builds vocal and keyboard proficiency by interpreting popular music elements, and Battle of the Bands develops vocal and instrumental skills through collaborative performances, emphasising teamwork and listening skills.

Film Music

In This Topic Students develop their composition skills using music technology to create pieces that complement video clips from films. They explore the works of composers like John Williams, Hans Zimmer, and Hildur Guðnadóttir. Through listening activities, students analyse different musical techniques and styles used in film scores, gaining insights into how music enhances storytelling and emotion in movies.

In composition sessions, students create motifs, riffs, and hooks inspired by iconic themes such as the James Bond theme. They experiment with musical elements like ostinato pedal notes, drones, and various textures to deepen their understanding of musical structure and form. The Year 8 music curriculum aims to equip students with

the skills and knowledge to engage critically and creatively with music across different media and genres.

Song Writing

In Song Writing, students delve into composition using primary triads in C major and A minor to create chord sequences for original compositions within group settings. They explore different song structures—such as verse-chorus and AABA form—and learn to utilize each structure effectively to convey lyrical themes and musical ideas.

Furthermore, students engage in crafting bass lines and arranging for a variety of pop band instruments, honing their skills in musical arrangement and ensemble performance. This dual focus on Film Music and Song Writing equips students with a comprehensive toolkit for musical expression and appreciation across different genres and mediums.

Samba

In the Samba topic, students at Cowley International College delve into the vibrant rhythms and cultural heritage of Brazilian music. Building upon their knowledge of rhythmic values from Year 7, students further explore reading rhythmic notation and develop proficiency in playing complex rhythms inspired by the Samba Batucada tradition using authentic percussion instruments. This hands-on approach not only enhances their rhythmic skills but also deepens their understanding of syncopation and polyrhythms inherent in Samba music.

Moreover, students engage with the history and origins of Samba music, learning about its cultural significance, structure, and distinctive textures. They explore musical elements such as improvisation, call-and-response patterns, and the integration of diverse percussion instruments—including traditional Samba Batucada instruments like the surdo, tamborim, and agogô—to recreate the dynamic energy of traditional Samba performances. Students also have opportunities to take on leadership roles within the Samba ensemble, fostering teamwork and musical leadership skills.

Through hands-on activities and group projects, students not only improve their technical skills but also develop a greater appreciation for the cultural richness of Samba music. This exploration expands their musical horizons and encourages a deeper understanding of global musical traditions, highlighting the diverse expressions of rhythm found in music from around the world.

Hooks and Riffs

Under the topic of Hooks and Riffs, students at Cowley international College continue to develop their musical skills with a focus on vocal and keyboard proficiency. They explore singing hooks and riffs from famous pop songs, such as "Shape of You," honing their vocal techniques and interpretation of contemporary music styles. This

exploration not only strengthens their vocal abilities but also deepens their understanding of popular song structures and performance nuances.

Additionally, students enhance their keyboard skills by learning and playing a variety of hooks and riffs. They engage in reading music notation and practicing chord progressions, which further solidifies their musical literacy and instrumental competence. This hands-on approach allows students to apply theoretical knowledge to practical performance, fostering confidence and versatility in musical expression.

Battle of the Bands

In the topic of Battle of the Bands, students at Cowley international College focus on developing their vocal and instrumental skills through collaborative musical experiences. Beginning with a class ensemble, students learn and perform selected songs such as "Seven Nation Army," honing their vocal abilities through group singing. This collective effort not only strengthens their vocal techniques but also fosters teamwork and ensemble coordination.

Following the vocal preparation, students form pop band ensembles comprising keyboards, drums, guitar, bass, vocals, and ukulele. Within these groups, students refine their instrumental skills by learning to play the selected performance songs. They work together to interpret the music, synchronize their playing, and develop their individual and collective musicality.

Throughout the Battle of the Bands topic, students not only enhance their vocal and instrumental proficiency but also develop their listening skills significantly. Working in ensembles requires attentive listening to balance dynamics, timing, and musical interactions among different instruments and voices. This collaborative approach not only encourages creativity and musical expression but also fosters a deeper appreciation for the nuances of ensemble playing and the importance of listening in creating cohesive musical performances.

Y9 Music Provision:

In Year 9 Music at Cowley International College, students engage in diverse topics to enhance their musical abilities. They refine their skills in Electronic Dance Music (EDM), exploring digital audio workstations and creating EDM remixes. Extended Song Writing deepens their composition skills with advanced chords and diverse musical styles. Use Your Ears focuses on ensemble development within pop/rock bands, while Set Song emphasizes keyboard proficiency and ensemble playing. Band on the Wall culminates their three-year musical journey with pop/rock band performances, showcasing their musical growth and teamwork in live settings.

EDM

In the EDM topic, students at Cowley School focus on refining their skills with Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) while exploring the evolution of electronic dance music (EDM) over time. They engage with listening tasks covering various eras of EDM, analysing key features and stylistic developments within the genre.

Students then work in pairs to create their own EDM remixes, developing their music technology skills alongside their musical abilities. This includes understanding elements such as form, structure, dynamics, texture, and the effective use of instruments in electronic music compositions.

Through interactive projects and collaborative work, students enhance their proficiency in using DAWs and deepen their appreciation and understanding of EDM. This exploration equips students with the tools to creatively engage with modern music production techniques, preparing them for future musical endeavours in digital and electronic music.

Extended Song Writing

In the Extended Song Writing topic, students at Cowley School build upon their knowledge from Year 8 topics such as Song Writing and Film Music. They explore advanced aspects of composition, including different keys and chords beyond primary triads. This involves studying extended chords and techniques for incorporating passing notes into bass lines, deepening their understanding of harmonic complexity in song writing.

Students also explore various musical styles and expand their awareness of diverse song structures. This exploration helps them appreciate how different structures can guide listeners through emotional and narrative journeys within their compositions.

Use Your Ears

In the Use Your Ears topic, students at Cowley International College build on their band skills developed in the Year 8 topic Battle of the Bands. They focus on developing ensemble skills within pop/rock band settings, learning to play selected songs as part of a cohesive ensemble.

Students will use their ears to decipher rhythms, tempo, and song structure, enhancing their ability to play by ear and adapt dynamically within the band context. This process not only strengthens their musical proficiency but also fosters collaborative teamwork and musical sensitivity.

Through practical rehearsals and performance scenarios, students refine their ensemble playing techniques and deepen their understanding of how individual contributions contribute to a unified musical expression. This hands-on approach

prepares them to engage confidently in live performances and further develop their musical skills beyond the classroom setting.

Set Song

In the Set Song topic, students at Cowley International College develop their keyboard playing skills by learning selected songs using two-handed technique and exploring triad chords with inversions on the keyboard. They progress to playing the accompaniment for the chosen song on a band instrument, further developing their ensemble skills. This includes identifying notes on a lead sheet and culminating in performances without notation.

Students enhance their awareness of balance, rhythm, and musical skills through practical exercises and listening tasks. This holistic approach not only strengthens their technical proficiency but also fosters their ability to collaborate effectively within a musical ensemble.

By engaging actively in rehearsals and performances, students refine their musical expression and deepen their understanding of how individual contributions contribute to a cohesive musical performance. This hands-on learning prepares them to confidently participate in musical performances and enhances their overall musical development.

Band on the Wall

In the Band on the Wall topic, students at Cowley International College hone their musical skills developed over three years of study. They form pop/rock band ensembles to perform selected songs together as a cohesive unit. Students utilize their listening skills and instrumental proficiency on guitar, bass, drums, keys, and vocals to rehearse their chosen song in preparation for the final performance of the year.

Throughout rehearsals, students demonstrate their ensemble and musical skills, showcasing their awareness of balance, performance dynamics, and ability to adapt to song arrangements. The culmination of performing from memory emphasizes their mastery of the material and their ability to engage confidently in live musical performances.

This topic not only celebrates the students' musical journey and achievements but also prepares them to apply their skills in real-world musical contexts. It underscores the importance of teamwork, artistic expression, and continuous growth in their musical endeavours beyond the classroom.

Key Stage 4 Music Provision:

In Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11), students are allocated 2 hours of music per week, subject to change. Cowley offers vocational courses through the Level 1/2 WJEC

Eduqas Performing Arts Course (Music approach). This course allows students to deepen their understanding and skills in music performance through units focused on performing and creating music. Assessment includes both internal and external components, ensuring students are equipped with practical skills and theoretical knowledge relevant to further studies or employment in the performing arts.

Students engage in:

- **Unit 1: Performing (Internal assessment, 30%)** - Students showcase their performance skills through solo and ensemble performances, developing technical proficiency and stage presence. They prepare for their performances with a focus on auditioning for the Whittingborn Festival, honing their abilities to perform under pressure and in professional settings.
- **Unit 2: Creating (Internal assessment, 30%)** - This unit focuses on composition and musical creativity, where students respond to a brief to create original pieces of music. This process involves exploring different styles and techniques to effectively convey their musical ideas.
- **Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice (External assessment, 40%)** - In this unit, students explore the planning and execution of a live music event. They are involved in all aspects of the event, including creating music for the event, set design, lighting, marketing and promotion, and budgeting. This comprehensive approach culminates in a presentation to a panel, preparing students for real-world scenarios in the music and performing arts industries.

The Key Stage 4 curriculum is designed to build upon the foundational skills developed in Key Stage 3, preparing students for further education or careers in the music and performing arts industries. It offers a blend of practical and theoretical learning experiences, ensuring students develop both technical proficiency and a critical understanding of musical concepts.

Key Stage 5 Music Provision:

At Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13), students have the opportunity to pursue advanced studies through the RSL Level 3 Vocational Extended Certificate in Creative Music Industry. This course spans two years and covers various comprehensive units designed to prepare students for higher education and careers in the music industry.

Students receive five hours of dedicated music tuition per week, engaging in a range of activities that develop their live performance skills, solo instrumental work, and ensemble performance techniques. They also gain experience in planning and organising live music events, which includes handling music creation, set design, lighting, marketing and promotion, and budgeting. Additionally, students explore aspects of music in practice and learn about the marketing and promotional side of the

music industry. This holistic approach ensures they are well-prepared for various career paths by providing a solid foundation in both performance and the business aspects of the music industry.

For more detailed information about our music curriculum, including time allocations per week and specific opportunities for disabled pupils and those with SEND, please refer to our published school curriculum available [SEND - Cowley International College - St Helens](#)

Part B: Co-curricular music

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

Music Tuition

Our school offers peripatetic one-on-one music tuition, which is provided free of charge to all students during the school day. Pupils can sign up for instrumental lessons throughout the academic year, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity for all, regardless of financial circumstances. Instrument loans are also available to support students in their musical development, providing access to pop band instruments as well as orchestral instruments. Current tuition includes Brass, Woodwind, Piano/Keyboard, Guitar, Bass, Drums and Voice.

Cowley International College maintains close links with St Helens Music Service, which provides instrumental tuition and performance opportunities outside of school. This partnership ensures free access to a range of ensembles and music theory tuition, enriching students' musical education beyond the classroom. Moreover, Cowley hires private instrumental tutors specialising in singing and drums, bringing valuable expertise to support our extracurricular programs. These tutors play a vital role in nurturing student talent and enhancing musical experiences at Cowley International College.

Students benefit from a flexible approach to music tuition, including one-on-one lessons and paired lessons, tailored to their individual needs and preferences. They have the opportunity to work towards music qualifications such as ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) and Rock School certifications, providing recognised benchmarks for their musical progress. Alternatively, students can simply learn an instrument for fun, without the pressure of working towards an examination. This comprehensive music education program not only fosters technical proficiency but also cultivates a lifelong appreciation for music and performance.

Extra-curricular music

At Cowley International College, students have access to an array of vibrant musical ensembles and clubs that extend beyond regular class time, nurturing a strong sense of community and musical exploration. All extracurricular clubs are provided free of charge, ensuring accessibility for all students regardless of their financial circumstances. Additionally, students have numerous opportunities to showcase their talents through performances at community events, charity functions, fundraising events for charities, and events at local churches, further enhancing their experience and fostering a sense of civic engagement and social responsibility.

These opportunities include:

Junior Choir: Junior Choir: Students can participate in the Junior Choir, tailored for pupils in KS3. Within this choir, students develop confidence alongside their vocal skills, performing a diverse range of musical pieces throughout the year in two-part harmony. The choir performs at the Annual Christmas Concert, Summer Concert, Pensioner Christmas Dinner, and the Y6 Transition Performance event. This non-auditioned group welcomes all students to get involved. Many students progress to the Senior Choir to expand their performance opportunities and further develop their harmony skills.

Senior Choir: The Senior Choir at Cowley is a prestigious vocal ensemble comprising students from Year 7 through to Year 13, reflecting its inclusive, non-auditioned nature. Members of this choir perform a diverse repertoire ranging from traditional music to musical theatre songs, often in intricate four-part harmony. The choir enjoys numerous performance opportunities within the school, including the Summer Concert, Christmas Concert, and the Christmas Light Switch On. Additionally, they participate in events beyond the school grounds, collaborating with St Helens Music Services, Haydock Rotary Club, and Young Carers Fundraising Events.

Rock School: Rock School at Cowley International College is an extracurricular group that meets every Wednesday after school. Dedicated to developing contemporary music skills and fostering collaboration among aspiring rock musicians, students have the opportunity to work with experienced instrumental tutors free of charge. Participants in Rock School also benefit from access to practice rooms and equipment, supporting their musical development. They are encouraged to form their own groups, fostering creativity and teamwork. Students showcase their talents at various events such as Cowley's Got Talent, the Y6 Transition Event, as well as the Summer Concert and Christmas Concert, providing valuable performance opportunities within the school community.

Concert Band: Concert Band at Cowley International College welcomes instrumentalists of all ages and abilities, providing a vibrant platform for musical collaboration and growth. Students participate in a diverse range of musical styles and genres, with arrangements tailored in-house to accommodate varying levels of experience. This inclusive environment fosters a supportive atmosphere where every member can contribute and develop their skills. Participation in Concert Band is free of charge, and students receive dedicated support from instrumental tutors to enhance their musical proficiency. Performance opportunities include festive activities like Christmas carolling during lunch breaks in the atrium, as well as prominent events such as the Summer Concert and Christmas Concert, where students showcase their musical talents to the school community and beyond. Additionally, students have the

chance to shine individually through solo performances, further enriching their musical journey within the band.

Keyboard Club: Keyboard Club at Cowley International College offers students a dedicated opportunity to enhance their keyboard skills and theoretical understanding of music. Held regularly, the club provides access to keyboards and sheet music, enabling students to practice and develop their proficiency. Under the guidance of an experienced pianist, participants receive personalized instruction and feedback, fostering both technical competence and musical expression. Keyboard Club serves as a supportive environment where students can refine their abilities and deepen their appreciation for music through hands-on learning and collaborative engagement.

Music Theory Club: Music Theory Club at Cowley International College offers students a valuable opportunity to delve deeper into the fundamental principles and concepts of music. Designed to support both KS3 and KS4 learning, the club focuses on enhancing theoretical knowledge and skills. Students engage in structured lessons and activities that cover a range of topics, from basic notation to more advanced concepts essential for academic and practical music pursuits. Additionally, Music Theory Club provides a platform for students to work on ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) theory skills, preparing them for formal music examinations and certifications. The club also nurtures composition skills, offering students the chance to develop their creativity through practical exercises and guidance from experienced instructors. Through dedicated instruction and interactive learning experiences, students broaden their understanding of music theory and composition, empowering them to excel in both their academic studies and musical endeavours.

Whole School Musical: At Cowley International College can engage in the Whole School Musical production, an inclusive event that showcases their talents through five performances, all provided free of charge. This enriching experience includes the opportunity to collaborate with a live band composed of professional musicians, offering students first-hand exposure to industry standards. They also benefit from learning from practitioners and teachers with extensive experience in the performing arts professionally. Previous productions, such as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Parade*, and *Les Misérables*, have captivated audiences and showcased the students' dedication and skill. Most recently, the 2023 production of *Evita* received excellent reviews, earning several nominations, and multiple prestigious NODA awards in 2023.

These extracurricular activities not only enhance students' musical abilities but also foster teamwork, creativity, and personal growth, contributing to a vibrant and inclusive musical community at our school.

Individual Practice Opportunities:

Students at Cowley International College have access to practice rooms and musical equipment free of charge during lunchtime and after school. This opportunity allows them to work collaboratively as a band or individually, honing their musical skills and preparing for performances. The availability of practice rooms and equipment supports students in developing their musical proficiency in a conducive environment. Whether rehearsing as a group or practicing solo, students benefit from dedicated spaces equipped with instruments, computers, and specialist music software such as Cubase and Band Lab. Additionally, students can conveniently book practice rooms using the booking sheet posted on each practice room door. This comprehensive access not only enhances their musical abilities but also encourages personal growth and expression through music, providing essential tools for creative exploration and technical development.

External Opportunities:

In addition to the vibrant performing arts programs offered at Cowley International College, pupils also have access to a wide range of opportunities outside of school through partnerships with St Helens Music Service. These include participation in the brass band, concert band, Music Theory Club, Music Service Choir, and masterclass sessions with leading composers organised by the music service. These experiences enrich students' musical education beyond the classroom, offering valuable insights and performance opportunities in various musical disciplines.

Furthermore, students can enhance their performing arts skills at the PQA Academy on Saturdays, hosted at Cowley St Helens. Led by experienced practitioners in Musical Theatre, Film and TV, Comedy and Drama, PQA (Pauline Quirke Academy) provides specialized training in acting, singing, and dancing for young performers. Please visit the PQA St Helens website for more information: [PQA St Helens Website](#). This academy offers a structured program that prepares students for potential careers in the arts and fosters a deep appreciation for performing arts disciplines.

Students can enhance their musical skills through various avenues outside of lesson time, such as weekend workshops, after-school rehearsals, and participation in our annual large-scale musical productions. These productions, including recent hits like Evita, offer students the chance to audition and perform on a professional stage, enhancing their performance skills and confidence.

Cowley International College's performing arts department is dedicated to providing a rich and inclusive musical education that empowers students to excel in performance, creativity, personal development and continue further study in the performing arts. Our extracurricular offerings ensure that every student has the opportunity to explore and develop their musical talents in a supportive and inspiring environment.

Part C: Musical Events

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

Throughout the academic year, Cowley International College offers a diverse range of musical experiences designed to enrich students' musical education and foster a love for music. These experiences include regular events such as singing in assemblies, musical performances, concerts, and shows both within and outside the school premises. Additionally, our scheduled musical performances, concerts, and shows promise to be highlights of the year, offering platforms for students to shine in various capacities.

Our Large-Scale events include the annual Summer Concert and the Christmas Concert, students from all year groups will have the chance to participate either as performers or members of the audience, ensuring that everyone can engage with and appreciate the musical achievements of their peers. The Whole School Musical for 2024, "Little Shop of Horrors," will involve dedicated rehearsals and collaborative efforts across different year groups, culminating in a spectacular showcase of talent, dedication and teamwork from the students and staff member.

Additionally, events like the Y6 Transition Event, St. Helen's Parish Church Christmas Concert, St. Helen's Rotary Club Christmas Dinner Concert, Cowley International College Pensioners' Lunch, Young Carers Fundraising Concert, Christmas Light Switch on, and Cowley's Got Talent showcase highlight the school's commitment to inclusivity and community engagement through music. These events are not only enriching but also accessible, as all activities are free for students to participate in, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where every student can explore and develop their musical abilities.

Overall, the musical experiences planned for the academic year at Cowley International College are designed to inspire, unite, and celebrate the diverse talents of our students, ensuring that music remains an integral part of their educational journey. Through these events, we aim to cultivate a lifelong appreciation for music and provide memorable experiences that contribute to the holistic development of our school community.

In the future

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

As part of our ongoing development plan for music at Cowley International College, we are committed to enhancing the musical experiences of our students through a structured mastery model music curriculum. This approach, informed by the endpoints

based on the national curriculum and a model music curriculum, ensures that students develop a deep understanding and proficiency in music, fostering their creativity and musical abilities across various disciplines.

In the coming years, we aim to introduce several improvements to our curriculum and co-curricular music offerings. New topics such as Programme Music in Year 7, Hooks and Riffs in Year 8, and the Year 9 Pop/Rock ensemble topic 'Band On The Wall' will be integrated into the curriculum to provide diverse musical experiences and cater to student interests. These topics are designed to align with national curriculum objectives while engaging students through relevant and contemporary musical concepts.

Alongside these enhancements, we will develop composition skills at Key Stage 3, enabling students to explore their creativity and express themselves through music. The redevelopment of music endpoints and composition knowledge will ensure that our curriculum and assessment practices are robust and aligned with educational standards, providing clear learning objectives and assessment criteria for students as they progress in their musical journey.

Additionally, we will provide pupils with access to composition software for home learning, such as Band Lab, enabling them to refine their skills and experiment with music creation outside of school hours. Introducing the teaching of Digital Audio Workstations will further broaden students' musical horizons and broaden their creativity for independent work.

While termly school performances will offer opportunities for students to showcase their musical progress and achievements, we also recognize the importance of experiential learning opportunities beyond the school environment. Therefore, alongside attending live music events within school premises, we aim to provide students with experiential opportunities to experience live music performances. These outings will expose students to professional musicianship, diverse musical genres, and cultural performances, enriching their understanding and appreciation of music beyond the classroom. We hope to provide more opportunities for pupils to attend music events to watch orchestras and bands and professional musical theatre performances.

In the future, we aim to plan residential trips for students as a form of performing arts retreat and eventually plan a tour abroad for pupils to perform to worldwide audiences and experience different cultures. Furthermore, we intend to promote singing across Key Stage 3 and integrate singing into each topic. By embedding singing into the curriculum, we aim to enhance students' vocal skills and foster a love for vocal music. This initiative will involve structured singing activities that complement each musical topic, ensuring that students experience the joy and benefits of singing as part of their comprehensive musical education. To support this, we will introduce a dedicated singing topic in Year 7 at the start of the year to develop core vocal skills, which can then be built upon through each subsequent topic.

In the future, we hope to introduce a GCSE music course and an A-level music course as the curriculum develops further. Additionally, we aspire to introduce a music technology course as we integrate music technology at KS3. These advancements will provide our students with a broader range of opportunities to pursue their musical interests and gain specialized skills that are valuable in the modern music landscape.

As part of our free instrumental tuition, we aim for more pupils to undertake grade examinations in music and musical theory as this will develop their scores for GCSE music and further study in music. Additionally, achieving these qualifications can open up opportunities for pupils to join orchestras and other ensembles outside of the school community.

We are also committed to continuing to produce high-quality shows and giving pupils the chance to attend the prestigious NODA award dinners, which are subsidized by the school. In the future, we plan to create trip opportunities at KS3 and KS4, including trips to see orchestras and theatre shows in collaboration with the drama and dance departments. Additionally, we hope to organize trips abroad with the senior and junior choirs and concert band, offering students unique cultural and musical experiences.

To further support performance opportunities for our pupils, we plan to introduce a 'Battle of the Bands' concert, providing a platform for students to showcase their talents in a competitive yet supportive environment. We also aim to build our online presence as a platform for performance opportunities with the introduction of Cowley Live Lounge, an online platform where students can share their musical creations with a broader audience within the community.

We hope to foster new and strengthen current partnerships with the music hub in St Helens and aspire to become the lead school for music education in the borough. By supporting other schools and improving music education, we aim to enhance the overall quality of music education in our community and beyond.