Music development plan summary:

Thomas Adams Music Department

There is a very strong tradition of music and music-making at Thomas Adams. The Department boasts a varied and busy extra-curricular timetable, which is enjoyed by a large number of students. A highlight of the school calendar occurs during the autumn term when the Music department, alongside the Drama department, produces our annual show. These excellent productions have, in recent years, included 'Sweeney Todd', 'Les Miserables', 'Into the Woods' and 'The Phantom of the Opera'. Each term, we host a Variety Concert, showcasing the wonderful array of musical talent from throughout our school. As well as soloists, these much-anticipated shows feature many of our school ensembles, including: Adjazz (our Jazz Band), Concert Orchestra, Woodwind Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Vocal Group and Chamber Choir. Another highlight of our school musical calendar is our annual Carol Service at the local church. The music department enjoys an excellent reputation around the county and beyond, and is, therefore, involved in performing at numerous external events. The sense of community, and strong bonds, within the department are strengthened by our annual music residential which takes place in the spring.

Academic results within the department have been impressive. Post A-level, students have progressed to study music at range of prestigious universities and music colleges.

Extra-curricular learning and opportunities are a huge feature of the department, with approximately 12% of the student body taking instrumental tuition across 8 disciplines, delivered by both Shropshire Music Service and private teachers. Naturally, this feeds into an excellent level of school wide participation in our extracurricular, musical, programme. Whilst extremely proud of this, it is a feature that we are keen to develop even further. It is great to see a number of our students featuring at county level.

The department is fully equipped with computers including keyboards, computer workstations and software including Muse Score.

All pupils study Music in Year 7,8 and 9, for an hour a week, exploring a wide variety of musical styles through listening, composing and performing. The lessons generally adopt a creative and practical approach, in order that pupils learn about the subject through direct experience and gain an appreciation for a wide range of genres and cultures. GCSE Music follows the Eduqas exam syllabus

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	Autumn 2026

Date this summary will be reviewed	Summer 2027
Name of the school music lead	Rebecca Heywood
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Tom McAleavy
Name of local music hub	Shropshire 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.

Our Musical LEARNING JOURNEY

A LEVEL MUSIC KS5
MUSIC DEGREE
UNIVERSITY

Music Department

YOUR FUTURE

Revision
Revision for Final examination

Revision and Performance Coursework.
Revision for Mock examination.
Preparation and completion of
Solo performance and
Ensemble performance.

Composition Coursework.
Preparation and completion of
Set brief composition
Free composition

Area of study 3: Film Music
Genres Film Music
Listening tasks
Development of Compositional ideas to the brief.
Performance of Leitmotifs.

Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble
Genres Jazz and blues, musical theatre and chamber music
Focus elements Texture and sonority
Listening tasks
Ensemble playing
Composition Revisions

Area of study 4: Popular Music
Genres Popular Music
Focus Elements Technology
Listening tasks
Ensemble playing
Popular Music Composition

Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices
Genres Baroque, Classical and Romantic Music.
Focus element Structure
Listening tasks
Composition in a WCT structure
Solo Performance

Introduction to GCSE Music
Film Music
Listening tasks
Composition Writing Film Scaore
Ensemble Performance

Introduction to GCSE Music
The Musical
Listening tasks
Composition Writing a song with a story
Ensemble Performance

Introduction to GCSE Music
Rock and Pop Music
Listening tasks
Composition Writing a Pop song
Ensemble Performance

The Performance Take 2!
Identifying musical devices used in popular music
Performing and improvising popular ensemble mus

Music for Gaming.
Students will explore the role of ICT in music creating their own music.

Blues Music
Identifying historical context, music devices ar
Performing and improvising Blues music. Cross curricular link.

Minimalism
Exploring 20th Century composing and its influence o
the media.

Samba Band
Identifying historical and cultural context, and musical devices. Performing and improvising Samba style music. Cross curricular link.

Chair Drumming
Learning to play a drum kit reading notation.

Whole Class Band
l pupils will learn how to play a Clarinet, Trumpet or Trombone.

The Performance
Identifying musical devices use
in popular music. Performing and improvising popular ensemble music.

Mozart and WCT
Identifying historical, cultural context, and musical devices. Performing and composing Classical styled music.

House singing.
Singing together, -
which tutor will win?

TRANSITION

Dr. Smith goes to Africa
Exploring the musical elements and African drumming.

Curriculum Mapping - Thomas Adams School

SEND-Information-report-23-24.pdf (thomasadams.net)

Music is delivered for 1 hour a week at key stage 3, 2.5 hours a week at key stage 4 and 5 hours a week for year 12 and 4 hours a week for year 13.

Through key stage curriculum lessons students have the opportunity to learn to play a wide variety of instruments, including percussion, keyboard/piano, african Djembe drums, ukulele's, guitars, drum kit and glockenspiels and xylophones. In year 7 all pupils will also have the opportunity to learn to play a trumpet, trombone or a clarinet within whole class lessons.

Thomas Adams School Video 2023 (youtube.com)

At key stage 4 and 5 GCSE and A level music are offered following the Eduqas exam board.

Thomas Adams School - Music 2023 - YouTube

Music A Level 2023 (youtube.com)

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.

As part of the instrumental programme we deliver lessons across all disciplines with 8 visiting teachers from both Shropshire Music Service and our private teacher community. These can be accessed via pupil premium and LAC funding.

Piano/Keyboard

Guitar

Drum Kit

Woodwind

Brass

Upper and lower Strings

Voice

Within this there is the opportunity to prepare for and undertake graded music lessons across a range of exam boards according to the discipline. Musical ensembles within our community and the Shropshire Music Service are signposted alongside opportunity for performances within local music festivals and competitions.

Within school we create opportunity for pupils to perform within a range of ensembles. These are open access and are encouraged for all.

String Group

Orchestra

Guitar Group

Brass Group

Choir

Student led ensembles

Adjazz – Jazz Band.

MUSIC Extra-curricular timetable
Autumn Term 2 2025

Day	Lunchtime: 1:35 – 2:10	After School: 3:30 – 4:30
Monday		• **String Group** • **Tap percussion ensemble**
Tuesday		• **Orchestra**
Wednesday	• **GCSE support**	• **ADJAZZ**
Thursday	• *Year 7 Brass Support*	• **Choir - ALL year groups**
Friday	• **Guitar Group** – ALL year groups	

Christmas Variety Concert – Wednesday 8th December at 7pm in Stanier Hall

Students are also involved within a show each year singing and performing within the pit orchestra.

We also have an annual Music residential of music making for a whole weekend. This regular features students from all year groups.

The music department can be accessed during lunchtimes and after school for private practice and or ensemble development with prior agreement. Indeed, our boarding students can access the department or the two pianos that are permanently placed within the boarding residence. There is also Music ICT software that is accessible within the Study Hub used by boarders and 6th form students.

Part C: Musical experiences

Music is an integral part of our community and, alongside three major termly concerts each year, the department plays a central role in supporting and enhancing the wider life of the school. We organise and host a Year 7 Singing Competition, contribute to awards evenings across all year groups, and provide a wide range of workshop-based learning opportunities that enrich students' musical experiences.

Students benefit from regular engagement with professional musicians and organisations, including a String Quartet residency provided by Shropshire Music Trust, composer visits, and workshops with a singer-songwriter and music producer through Never Such Innocence. Performance opportunities are extensive and include the annual school production, performances at local primary schools, a community charity concert in partnership with Shrewsbury School, and the provision of live Trumpet players for the performance of the Last Post.

We are proud to provide opportunities for students to perform and excel at the highest levels. Recent highlights include participation in a massed Trust Orchestra involving over 100 students, pupils performing successfully at county level, and a student securing a place on the National Schools' Orchestral programme. Through these diverse musical experiences, students develop confidence, collaboration, resilience, creativity and a lifelong appreciation of music while making a meaningful contribution to both the school and the wider community.

In the future

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

Trust Improvement Consultants – The 3-18 Education Trust

We will maintain our current provision and are intending to build further links within the trust.

To the future we intend to keep growing and developing the department ensuring the best musical education for our students.

“Every child and young person should have access to quality music making opportunities to ensure that all pupils receive a thorough, broad and high quality music education” The Power of Music: A Research Synthesis of the Impact of Actively Making Music on the Intellectual, Social and Personal Development of Children and Young People | Music Mark

Further information (optional)

Thomas Adams School - Secondary school in Wem, Shropshire

The 3-18 Education Trust – Driven by our mission to ensure ‘Every individual is in a great school

Shropshire Music Service

Music education: information for parents and young people - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Music Mark | Leaders in High Quality Music Education