

Music development plan summary: Ponteland High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mr Philip Rosier
Name of local music hub	Northumberland Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Newcastle University, Samling Institute and Music Mark

Part A: Curriculum music

Ponteland High School is committed to delivering a comprehensive and engaging music curriculum for all students.

- **Curriculum Structure:** Music is timetabled for two **hours every 2 weeks** for all students in **Key Stages 3** in alignment with the National Plan for Music Education.
- **Curriculum Framework:** Our music curriculum is informed by the **Model Music Curriculum (2021)** and the **KS3 National Curriculum** and tailored to support a range of musical abilities, needs and interests. It focuses on listening, performing, composing, and appraising music from a variety of genres and cultures.
- **Instruments and Singing:** Students engage in vocal activities and have the opportunity to learn and play a variety of instruments, including **keyboard, guitar, percussion including djembes and samba drums, ukuleles and Pbuzz instruments**. Whole-class ensemble teaching is delivered at various stages.
- **Inclusive Learning:** We ensure access for **SEND students** by providing adaptive resources and additional support where needed.
- **Music Qualifications:** At Key Stage 4 and 5, students can pursue **GCSE Music and A-Level Music**, alongside graded music examinations.
- **Partnerships:** We work closely with **Northumberland Music Service, Newcastle University Music Mark school Samling institute** to support and enhance our curriculum offering.

For more details on our curriculum, visit:

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

<https://www.ponthigh.org.uk/curriculum/key-stage-3/>

<https://www.ponthigh.org.uk/curriculum/key-stage-4/ks4-curriculum-overviews/>

Part B: Co-curricular music

Beyond the curriculum, we offer a wide range of musical activities to develop students' talents and interests.

- **Instrumental & Vocal Tuition:** Lessons are available for a range of instruments, including **piano, violin/viola, woodwind, brass, percussion, piano, Northumbrian pipes, guitar** as well as **singing lessons**. These lessons are delivered by **specialist peripatetic tutors**.
- **Ensembles & Groups:**
 - **Ponteland High School Choir** (open to all year groups)
 - **School Orchestra** (string, woodwind, and brass players)
 - **Rock & Pop Band** (for contemporary music enthusiasts)
 - **Wind band**
 - **String Group**
 - **Junior and senior school choirs**
 - **Jazz band**
- **Practice & Rehearsal Spaces:** There are five dedicated practice rooms all with high spec electric pianos and they are available for students to use during break times and after school as well as for instrumental lessons
- **Music Tuition Support:** Tuition is **partially subsidised** for eligible students, including those receiving Pupil Premium funding.
- **SEND:** We offer music for SEND students where resources and teaching are adapted to the specific needs of the child.
- **Progression Opportunities:** Students have access to external music centres, graded music exams, and local ensemble opportunities through e.g. the Ponteland Community Wind band.

Part C: Musical experiences

At Ponteland High School, we are proud to provide a wide and diverse range of musical experiences that allow students to engage with music in meaningful, inspiring ways beyond the classroom.

Throughout the academic year, we host a variety of **school concerts**, including our **ensemble performances** and a **mini concert series** featuring instrumental teachers and their students. These performances give pupils regular opportunities to build confidence and celebrate their progress in front of peers, families, and the wider school community.

Our **annual school productions** bring together students from across year groups, combining music, drama, and dance in exciting, high-quality performances that develop collaborative skills

and performance technique. Recently we have done performances of 'Footloose' and 'We Will Rock You'.

We are proud to enter external events and competitions, such as the **Great North Big Band Jazz Festival**, where our students gain performance experience and receive feedback from industry professionals. Our **brass band** also performs for the local community and at feeder schools, such as **Ponteland Primary School**, helping to inspire younger learners and promote music-making across all age groups. We have also entered the Northumberland schools choir competition where we were placed first in the last academic year

Our students benefit from visits to the **Newcastle University Music Department**, where they engage in workshops with university students and staff to explore **pathways to careers in music**. This valuable experience broadens their horizons and introduces them to post-16 and post-18 music opportunities.

We also welcome professional musicians into school to lead **masterclasses and workshops**, including regular collaborations with the **Samling Institute**, giving students access to expert guidance and professional-level insight. We have now been given the 'Singing School' status by the Institute.

Additionally, we actively encourage partnerships with local ensembles such as the **Ponteland, Prudhoe, and Whittenstall Community Bands, Jedforest Instrumental Brass Band** creating opportunities for students to rehearse and perform alongside adult musicians in real-world settings. Students have attended an introduction evening with a view to encourage them to join

Other events include **concerts for staff**, in which students perform after school and help to create a musical ethos throughout the school

All musical experiences are inclusive, and we aim to remove any financial barriers that could prevent participation. There is no cost to any pupil being in any ensemble.

In the future

Looking ahead, we are committed to further strengthening and expanding our music provision across all areas of school life. Our goals include:

- **Further establish whole-class ensemble teaching** opportunities across Key Stage 3, ensuring that every student experiences practical music-making as part of their core learning.
- **Continue to offer GCSE and A-level student concerts**, giving exam groups a formal platform to perform their work and build confidence in a supportive, real-audience setting.
- **Composition showcases** were introduced last year; however, attendance was low. Develop strategies to increase student, parent and community engagement, ensuring that future showcases are better attended and provide a meaningful platform for students' original work.
- **Consolidating and expanding community links**, including regular performances at local care homes, primary schools, and collaborative events with community groups such as Ponteland, Prudhoe, and Whittenstall Community Bands.
- Continuing to offer a broad range of **musical experiences and masterclasses** in collaboration with organisations like Newcastle University and building on the singing school

status with the Samling Institute. **A new singing teacher** linked to the Institute will be teaching from September 2026 to build on the success of last year's involvement and help students achieve a high level of singing technique and performance.

- The music department will always try to establish new beneficial partnerships where possible.
- Try to encourage a **Parent Orchestra** to further involve families in school life and musical performance. In the previous year there was not enough interest so this will initiative will be revisited again.
- **Enhance career pathways events and music industry insights** for students considering further study or work in music-related fields.
- Achieve the Music Mark Award for **the fourth consecutive year** and retain the higher-level '**Ambition and Quality**' Award.