

## Welcome to the First Edition of the School Music Bulletin!

We're excited to launch this weekly update designed to keep you informed, inspired, and connected. Each edition will share practical tips, upcoming events, and good news from across our music community. Thank you for all you do to make music thrive in our schools—let's make this a space for collaboration and celebration!

## Your Voice Matters!

If you have a Top Tip you'd like to contribute, please email Christina at [Christina.Luchies@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Christina.Luchies@hertfordshire.gov.uk). We'd love to feature your ideas in future editions!

## Top Tip

Our TOP TIP this week is from [Dr. Anita Collins](#), a leading researcher in the field of how music learning strengthens the learning behaviours that underpin all progress in school, such as focus, regulation, memory and participation, which in turn create the conditions for success in language, literacy and wider learning.

*“Focus on creating emotional connection and meaning in every music lesson. When students feel engaged and understand the ‘why,’ their memory, focus, and learning behaviours strengthen—laying the foundation for success across all subjects.”*

*Why this works:*

*Neuroscience shows that music activates multiple brain networks simultaneously, including those for emotion, motor skills, and executive function. When learning feels meaningful and emotionally engaging, dopamine is released, boosting attention and memory formation—key ingredients for long-term learning success.*

## Upcoming Events

### Spring 2026 CPD & Networking Events

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Topic	Booking Link
4 Feb	3:45 - 4:45 PM	<b>SEND</b> Music Network	Online	Joint schools' concerts planning, Sound Sensations Update	<a href="#">SEND Music Network (2) – Fill in form</a>

24 Feb	4:00 - 5:00 PM	<b>EYFS</b> Music Network	Online	Musical skills & language development	<a href="#">Early Years Music Network (2) – Fill in form</a>
4 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	<b>Secondary</b> Music Network Mid, South and West	Online	GCSE and KS4/5  Composition and moderation  The future of A-Level Music	<a href="#">Mid, South and West Secondary Music Network (2) – Fill in form</a>
4 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	<b>Secondary</b> Music Network East	Online	Boys engagement with music	<a href="#">East Secondary Music Network (2) – Fill in form</a>
17 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	<b>Primary</b> Music Network East	Haileybury Turnford School	Practical session with rhythm work, notation and singing	<a href="#">East Primary Music Network (2) – Fill in form</a>
18 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	<b>Primary</b> Music Network North	The Priory School	Baseline continuation & starting ensembles	<a href="#">North Primary Music Network (2) – Fill in form</a>
26 Mar	10:00 AM -	<b>SEND</b> Joint Music CPD	SouthField School	Music for Regulation in	<a href="#">School Music CPD -</a>

	3:00 PM			Mainstream and SEN settings	<a href="#">SEND – Fill in form</a>
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## Lead Schools for Music

### Have a Question for a Lead School?

If you would like to:

- Ask a question
- Arrange a face-to-face or online meeting
- Schedule a phone call
- Organise a school visit

...with one of our Lead Schools, simply complete the **Request Form**.

Once submitted, the Lead School will contact you directly to arrange the next steps.

Complete the Request Form [Lead School Contact Form – Fill in form](#)

## Good News

### HMS and Hertfordshire Schools are finalists in the National Music and Drama Education Awards

**The Priory School**, Hitchin is a finalist for Outstanding School Music Department.

**The Marlborough Science Academy**, St Albans is a finalist for Outstanding School Drama Department.

**Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS)** is a finalist for Progressive and Inclusive Music Education, highlighting the 'HertsArts' programme

Ben Stevens, Music Director for HMS, said:

*“It is also fantastic to see Hertfordshire schools being recognised for music and drama education. The icing on the cake is that The Priory School is one of Hertfordshire’s Lead Schools for Music, so this recognition for Lindsay and her team’s work supporting other music departments in the region is well deserved.”*

The winners will be announced in February 2026 at an awards ceremony in London.

Hope you enjoy the first edition of School Music Weekly Bulletin.