

School Music Bulletin - Issue 4

Top Tip: Creative Ways to Engage Instrumentalists

Looking to keep instrumentalists motivated and involved? Try introducing **flexible, inclusive ensembles** that cater to a variety of instruments and skill levels. For example:

- **Rebrand your Junior Orchestra** into a **Concert Band** playing modern, popular, and film music. Arrange pieces to suit the musicians you have—quirky, contemporary choices work best!
- Start a **Folk Band** using resources like Tuneworks for free multi-clef arrangements. This creates a relaxed, jam-style environment that challenges intermediate players in a fun way.
- Host a **Pianathon** or similar event for pianists—include solos, duets, and collaborations with dancers or singers. These events build community, raise funds, and help you spot hidden talent.

Why it works: Inclusive, creative ensembles and events foster a sense of belonging, encourage progression, and make music exciting for all players.

Tor Cooper

Tor Cooper currently oversees the Music and Performing Arts department at St Albans Girls' School. With a Music degree from Nottingham University and teacher training completed in Bristol, Tor brings 18 years of experience teaching students from Year 7 through to A-level.

She has a strong interest in composition, having specialised in it during her own training, and is dedicated to enhancing student confidence in this area. Tor served as a subject tutor with Bristol University's PGCE program for many years and now provides subject-specific training at the Alban Teaching School Hub. An oboist with a love for orchestral music and conducting, she also sings with a community choir, reflecting her enthusiasm for collaborative and community-oriented events.

[Lead School Contact](#)

[Form – Fill in form](#)

Upcoming Events

SEND Music Networking

4th February, 3:45 – 4:45 PM, Online

Hosted by: Matthew Dear and Rebecca Starling

This session is designed for colleagues working in SEND settings or supporting inclusive music-making. It's a great opportunity to collaborate, share ideas, and plan exciting joint projects that celebrate musical diversity.

Adrian Price who runs Soundbeam will be doing an online demo for us. It will be a great opportunity to see it in action and ask Adrian any questions. [Soundbeam 6 — Soundbeam](#)

Booking: [SEND Music Networking – Fill in form](#)

Networking for Primary Generalist Teachers Leading Music

11th Feb, 3.30-4.30pm, Online

[Networking for Primary Generalist Teachers Leading Music – Fill in form](#)

Hosted by: Grace Hawksbee – Primary Generalist Teacher Leading Music

This session is designed for primary school teachers who teach across multiple subjects and take on the responsibility of leading music without formal specialist training. The aim is to create a supportive space for sharing experiences, challenges, and practical strategies for delivering engaging music lessons.

What to Expect:

Networking: Connect with other teachers in similar roles.

Resource Sharing: Explore ideas, tools, and approaches that make music teaching more accessible and enjoyable.

Confidence Building: Learn tips to feel more comfortable and effective when leading music in your classroom.

Discussion: Identify common challenges and brainstorm solutions together.

Why Attend:

Whether you're looking for inspiration, practical advice, or simply a community of peers who are in a similar position to you and understand your unique role, this meeting is an opportunity to collaborate and grow.

Booking: [Networking for Primary Generalist Teachers Leading Music – Fill in form](#)

Stay Connected

[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 for Music](#), 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](#)

You can book a time to meet with our **Head of Participation and School Music**, using the Outlook function [Book time with Christina Luchies](#)

Spring 2026 CPD & Networking Events

We warmly invite all music educators across Hertfordshire to take part in any of our sessions. You are welcome to attend as many sessions as you wish, and there is no limit on the number of staff members from your school who may join—everyone is encouraged to get involved.

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Topic	Booking Link
4 Feb	3:45 - 4:45 PM	SEND Music Network	Online	Joint schools' concerts planning, Sound Sensations Update	SEND Music Network (2) – Fill in form
11 Feb	3.30- 4.30pm	Primary Network	Online	Networking opportunity for Generalist primary teacher leading music	Networking for Primary Generalist Teachers Leading Music – Fill in form
24 Feb	4:00 - 5:00 PM	EYFS Music Network	Online	Musical skills & language development	Early Years Music Network (2) – Fill in form
4 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Secondary Music Network Mid, South and West	Online	GCSE and KS4/5 Composition and moderation The future of A-Level Music	Mid, South and West Secondary Music Network (2) – Fill in form
4 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Secondary Music Network East	Online	Boys engagement with music	East Secondary Music Network (2) – Fill in form
17 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Primary Music Network East	Haileybury Turnford School	Practical session with rhythm work, notation and singing	East Primary Music Network (2) – Fill in form
18 Mar	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Primary Music Network North	The Priory School	Baseline continuation & starting ensembles	North Primary Music Network (2) – Fill in form
26 Mar	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	SEND Joint Music CPD	SouthField School	Music for Regulation in Mainstream and SEN settings	School Music CPD - SEND – Fill in form



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