

School Music Bulletin – Issue 7

Learning music strengthens the brain’s executive system — it trains focus, memory, and self-control all at once.

Top Tip: Ukulele in the Classroom – Ideas Sheet

The ukulele is a versatile, accessible, and inclusive classroom instrument. It can be used for performance, creativity, listening and composition.

This sheet outlines a range of ideas with adaptations for all abilities:

Main Uses & Adaptations			
Use	Activity Suggestion	Adaptations (Lower Ability / SEND)	Extensions (Higher Ability)
 Class Ensemble	Whole class playing simple songs together.	Open strings, colour-coded chords, down strums only.	Chord inversions, syncopated strumming, fingerpicking.
 Musicality Training	Dynamics, tone, phrasing, articulation.	Loud/quiet contrasts, fast/slow practice.	Subtle dynamics, phrasing, rubato.
 Ear Training	Play and echo intervals, chords, rhythms.	Echo single notes or rhythms.	Identify intervals, play by ear, transcribe.
 Creating a Melody	Invent short riffs or tunes.	Use open string + 1 fret.	Compose 8-bar melodies, add harmony.
 Call & Response	Teacher/peer plays, others copy or answer.	2–3 note motifs.	Improvised answers, question–answer phrasing.
 Improvisation	Use pentatonic or C major scale.	Restrict to 2–3 notes.	Explore modes, blues scale, longer solos.
 Songwriting	Compose lyrics with chords.	Lyric starters, 2-chord loop.	Full song form (verse–chorus–bridge), varied chords.
 Ensemble Texture	Layer chords, riffs, rhythm parts.	Open-string drone, pulse only.	Arrange multi-part textures, ostinatos.
 Performance Skills	Build confidence performing.	Perform in pairs/groups, one chord only.	Stagecraft, leading the ensemble, non-verbal cues

Samantha Chadwick has been dedicated to music education for the past 16 years and currently heads the music department at Richard Hale. As a pianist and mezzo-soprano with a choral background, her teaching is enriched by practical experience. Sam specialises in composition and arrangement, informed by her studies in commercial composition and technology.

She strongly believes in making music accessible and engaging for all students, fostering a dynamic and supportive learning environment where every student can explore their musical potential. You can contact Sam via: [Lead School Contact Form – Fill in form](#)

Call for Contributions: School-Authored Music Newsletter

We are excited to launch a new **termly, school-authored music newsletter** — written *by schools, for schools*. This shared space will highlight the brilliant work happening across Hertfordshire, celebrating practice, sharing ideas, and showcasing the impact of music learning in your settings.

We invite all Hertfordshire schools to contribute **short articles, case studies, reflections, or examples of practice**. Submissions might include:

- curriculum developments
- ensemble or extra-curricular projects
- cross-curricular work
- pupil-voice-led initiatives
- performances or events
- research-informed approaches
- anything that spotlights music-making in your school

 **Submit your article for consideration in the first edition**

 **Deadline: 2 March 2026**

We look forward to amplifying school voices and learning from one another through this new collaborative platform.

Upcoming Events & Networks

Primary Generalist Teachers Leading Music



Transforming Music Provision in Your Primary School

A practical guide for non-specialist music leads and senior leaders looking to build confidence, inspire pupils, and make music a vibrant part of school life.

 **11 February | 3:30–4:30pm | Online**

Hosted by **Grace Hawksbee**

Designed for primary teachers leading music alongside other subjects. Expect:

- Practical ideas and resources
- Confidence-building strategies
- Peer networking and shared problem-solving

Booking link:  <https://forms.office.com/e/GRDKFX2v8g>

Early Years Music Network

📍 24 February | 4:00–5:00pm | Online

Hosted by **Sarah Todd & Tom Robinson**

This session focuses on how music supports **language development, phonological awareness, memory, and early communication**, closely aligning with the Literacy & Music Research Programme.

🔗 Booking link: <https://forms.office.com/e/CPmPY9R7vj>



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

Partners

Royal Ballet & Opera – *Create and Sing* CPD Day

 **Thursday 23 April 2026 | Woolenwick Infant & Nursery School**

A **FREE, full-day certified CPD** opportunity for KS1–KS2 teachers and Music Leads.

No prior experience of singing or opera required.

Includes:

- Full-day in-person CPD
- Five-lesson classroom schemes
- Termly digital live lessons with Royal Ballet dancers

 Booking link:

<https://www.rbo.org.uk/schools/resource/primary-sing-hertfordshire-spring-26>

- Instagram
- Facebook
- YouTube

Stay Connected

You can book time to meet with our **Head of Participation & School Music, Christina Luchies**, using Bookings or contact directly:

 christina.luchies@hertfordshire.gov.uk

 Book a meeting: <https://outlook.office.com/bookwithme/...>

Lead Schools for Music – Support Available

Would you like to:

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

You can connect with one of our **Lead Schools for Music** by completing the request form below. The Lead School will contact you directly to arrange next steps.

 **Lead School Contact Form:** <https://forms.office.com/e/k3MsZFayS4>

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