

School Music Bulletin – Issue 10

We are pleased to present you with the latest edition of School Music Bulletin – Issue 10.

We welcome any feedback that you may have in terms of content and format, so that we may ensure this communication remains helpful and enlightening.

Top Tip:

'Musical ears, musical eyes and musical bodies'

Starting a lesson to get your children tuned in...

I always find some quick 'eyes, ears and bodies' activities really help to flick the switch between what the children were previously doing and getting them to focus for the session ahead. It also offers those children who need a clear and predictable routine a familiar and reassuring access point to what can be quite a challenging transition time.

I often start with a simple call and response song, such as 'Hello everyone' to which the children sing back 'Hello everyone' or 'Hello Mrs Ward'. I always establish this right from the very first time I teach a class and continue it as the starting point for our music lesson routine every week onwards. When it's really established, I invite children to lead the call, and we just change the words accordingly. We explore pitch changes over time – particularly when the children start to sing the call as they all have very different natural starting points. Of course, you could create a call and response song about anything...so feel free to make one up that you feel comfortable singing. It only needs to have 2 or 3 different pitches.

Then I might do some kind of clapping activity. It could be a call and response: clap a simple rhythm and then they echo it back immediately. You probably use clapping as a behaviour management strategy throughout your teaching day, so incorporate it into the start of your music lesson! Start really simple, and over time as children become more fluent and accurate you can make it more challenging. You could make the patterns longer (great for aural memory), rhythmically more challenging by introducing new rhythm patterns or some off-beat patterns (syncopated) and I always find including rests (silent beats) catches them out – if they're not watching carefully, they will go wrong! And of course, you could include body percussion which will keep them on their toes (tap the pattern on your knees, stamp the rhythm...)! If you need a starting point to get you going, look at the ideas here: [Rhythm Clap Along - Level 1 to 3 \(For Beginners/Kids\)](#) but you lead it instead of the YouTuber! Or you could simply pop on some music that everyone likes and use this as a backing whilst you clap, tap, march, stamp, dance along – you choose the actions and rhythms to start with and then let children offer suggestions as they become more confident, accurate and creative.

Once these activities have been done (which should only take a few minutes) most of the children are ready to use their ears, eyes and bodies in a musical way in whatever your lesson requires. Don't forget to remind them all through the lesson about using their 'musical ears, musical eyes and musical bodies'. How can children show they are? By the way they maintain eye contact with you, by listening carefully to instructions, musical activities and their own musical responses, and by how they use their bodies, for example, how they hold their beater to play an instrument, what the instrument sounds like when they play it, holding the correct posture when ready to sing, or responding to music through a controlled action or movement. Kirsty Allman Ward

Kirsty Allman Ward – Primary Music Matters, is an experienced primary music specialist passionate about helping schools deliver inspiring, high-quality music education. Through Primary Music Matters, she supports teachers with practical resources, engaging curriculum approaches, and creative ideas that build

confidence and enjoyment in the classroom. Kirsty works closely with schools across Hertfordshire to develop inclusive musical experiences that enable all children to thrive.

Primary Music Networking

Date: Tuesday 17th March 2026

Time: 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Host: Sally Nicholson

Topic: Practical session with rhythm work, notation and singing.

Venue: Haileybury Turnford School

Booking link: [🔗 East Primary Music Networking – Fill in form](#)



Reminder Secondary Schools:

Have you registered for the Hertfordshire Secondary Schools County wide online networking event:

Secondary Music Network – Online Session

An exciting opportunity for music leads and classroom teachers to connect, share practice, and gain new insights.

Agenda:

- GCSE and A level Music

- **GCSE Composition focus**

Date: Tuesday 3 March 2026

Time: 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Location: Online

Session Leads: Tor Cooper, Francis Mullaby

Booking link:  [County Wide Secondary Music Network](#)

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>

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/...>

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
3 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	County Wide Secondary Music Network

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

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