

School Music Bulletin – Issue 26

We are pleased to present you with the latest edition of School Music Bulletin – Issue 26
We welcome your feedback on both content and format so that we can ensure the bulletin remains relevant, useful and supportive of schools.

[School Music Bulletin](#)

Welcome to the 2026/27 Academic Year

A very warm welcome to all schools, music teachers, music leaders and colleagues across Hertfordshire as we begin a new academic year.

We hope you have enjoyed a restful summer break and are returning refreshed and ready for another exciting year of music-making. Whether you are continuing to build on established provision or developing new opportunities for children and young people, we look forward to working alongside you throughout the year.

We would like to offer a special welcome to everyone who is new to a music leadership role, new to teaching music, or joining a new school this September. We know that taking on responsibility for music can be both exciting and challenging, and we want you to know that you are not alone.

Hertfordshire Music Service and the Hertfordshire Lead Schools are here to support you. From curriculum development and music leadership, to singing, instrumental learning, enrichment, inclusion and progression pathways, we are eager to help schools create high-quality musical experiences for every child.

We strongly encourage new music leads and teachers to introduce themselves and get in touch. Whether you have a specific question, would like advice, are new to music leadership, or simply want to discuss your school's music provision, we would be delighted to hear from you.

 christina.luchies@hertfordshire.gov.uk

We wish you a successful, rewarding and musical year ahead and look forward to connecting with you during our networking events, CPD opportunities and school support activities throughout 2026/27.

Top Tip: Start the Year with a School Music Audit

A simple music audit at the start of the academic year can save significant time later and help you plan for maximum impact. Hertfordshire Music Service has developed a **School Music Audit Toolkit** to help schools identify strengths, celebrate effective practice and prioritise areas for development.

The audit includes a range of criteria linked to key aspects of effective music provision and high-quality outcomes for pupils. As sections are completed, the toolkit automatically generates an overview dashboard and spider diagram, making it easy to visualise strengths and areas for future focus.

Consider reviewing:

- Current curriculum provision across all year groups

- Singing opportunities and ensemble activities
- Instrumental lessons and participation rates
- Performance opportunities throughout the year
- Resources, instruments and technology
- Progression pathways for pupils showing particular interest or talent

Why it matters

- Helps identify strengths and priorities for development
- Supports effective use of staff time and budget
- Provides useful evidence for school improvement planning
- Ensures all pupils have opportunities to participate, progress and achieve in music

Top Tip: The audit is designed to be completed over time, so don't feel you need to do everything at once. Start with the areas most relevant to your school and use the results to identify **three clear music priorities** for the year. Focusing on a small number of achievable goals often leads to greater long-term impact than trying to change everything at once.

Download the School Music Audit Toolkit:

- **Primary / Early Years:** [music-development-school-statements-ey-primary.xlsx](#)
- **Secondary:** [music-development-school-statements-secondary.xlsx](#)

Do you have a music leadership, curriculum or participation tip to share with schools in Hertfordshire? Please email christina.luchies@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

Save this Date:

Save the Date: Hertfordshire Schools' Gala 2028.

Following the success of previous gala events, we are delighted to confirm that the next county-wide gala will take place on Sunday 12 March 2028.

Upcoming Networking, CPD and Events 2026/27:

Date	Event / Theme	Booking Link
Autumn Term		
23 September 2026	KS5 – How can we support young people to achieve and flourish through meaningful and motivating music qualifications?	KS5 Music Peer Group Meeting 23 September

		2026, 4 - 5pm – Fill in form
8 October 2026	EYFS – How can we develop strong musical foundations that support lifelong participation and progression?	EYFS - Join the Conversation 8 October 2026 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
13 October 2026	KS2 Lower (Years 3–4) – How can we inspire all pupils in Lower KS2 to develop as confident, curious and actively engaged musicians?	KS2 Lower (Years 3–4) – Join the Conversation 13 October 2026 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
21 October 2026	BTEC – How can we maximise engagement, achievement and progression through vocational music qualifications while preparing students for the realities of the modern music industry?	BTEC Music – Join the Conversation 21 October 2026 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
10 November 2026	KS2 Upper – How can we sustain engagement and develop musical independence in Upper KS2 so that more pupils continue their musical journey into secondary education and beyond?	KS2 Upper (Years 5–6) – Join the Conversation 10 November 2026 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
25 November 2026	Music Leaders – How can music leaders build a culture in which all pupils can access, participate in and progress through high-quality music education both within and beyond the curriculum?	Music Leaders – Join the Conversation 25 November 2026 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
Spring Term		
13 January 2027	KS4 – How can we increase participation, achievement and progression in KS4 music while ensuring pathways remain relevant, inclusive and sustainable?	KS4 Music – Join the Conversation 13 January 2027 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
11 Feb 2027	SEND Primary School Conference Music Participation, SEND and Inclusion – How can we ensure that all children and young people can fully participate, progress and thrive in music, regardless of their needs, background or circumstances? (<i>or: What barriers prevent some pupils from engaging fully in music, and how can schools remove them?</i>)	SEND Primary School Conference 11 February 2027 9.30am–3.30pm – Fill in form
25 February 2027	KS1 – How can we create engaging and inclusive musical experiences in KS1 that develop musical understanding, confidence and enthusiasm for music in every child?	KS1 – Join the Conversation 25 February 2027 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
10 March 2027	Music Technology and Creative Production – How can technology help broaden participation,	Music Technology and Creative Production 10

	develop creativity and provide relevant pathways for today's young musicians?	March 2027 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
Summer Term		
19 May 2027	Recruitment and Retention – How can we attract, engage and retain more children and young people in music, ensuring that participation leads to sustained musical growth and progression?	Recruitment and Retention – Join the Conversation 19 May 2027 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
26 May 2027	Enrichment, Choirs and Ensemble Leaders – How can we create inclusive and sustainable musical opportunities that inspire greater participation beyond the classroom?	Enrichment, Choirs and Ensemble Leaders 26 May 2027 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
16 June 2027	KS3 – How can we deliver an engaging and inclusive KS3 music curriculum that inspires sustained participation and progression in music?	KS3 – Join the Conversation 16 June 2027 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
2 July 2027	Herts Schools Music Expo "How do we create a music education ecosystem in Hertfordshire that inspires lifelong participation and musical growth?"	Herts Schools Music Expo 2027 2 July 2027 – Fill in form

Musical Confidence Series: An Introduction to Staff Notation

Are you a generalist teacher who has never learned to read music?

This new online CPD series has been designed specifically for primary classroom teachers and non-specialists who would like a gentle introduction to staff notation.

In a friendly, supportive environment, we'll explore the basics of reading and understanding written music—no prior knowledge or musical training required. These online sessions will help you build confidence and develop skills that can be used straight away in the classroom.

Topics will include:

- Understanding the musical stave
- Recognising basic note values and rhythms
- Following simple melodies
- Developing confidence with musical vocabulary and symbols

Dates:

- 30 September 2026

- 20 January 2027
- 21 April 2027

Whether you're new to teaching music or simply want to feel more confident with notation, these sessions are the perfect place to start.

No previous experience required – just bring your curiosity and willingness to learn.

Book your place: [School Music CPD - Notation – Fill in form](#)

HMS Youth Council



Are you working with a young musician who would like to help shape music opportunities across Hertfordshire?

The HMS Youth Council offers students in Years 9-12 a unique opportunity to develop leadership skills, build confidence and contribute to real music projects and events, including the HMS Gala at the Royal Albert Hall.

Participants will:

- Develop leadership and communication skills
- Help shape future music opportunities
- Work alongside Hertfordshire Music Service staff
- Gain valuable experience in event planning and delivery
- Meet like-minded young musicians from across the county

Open to all young people with an interest in music.

Participants do not need to be current HMS students.

Applications close Friday 2 October 2026.



Scan the QR code to apply.

Lead Schools for Music

Connect, collaborate and develop music education together.

Whether you're looking for peer to peer networking, developing your music curriculum, strengthening singing provision, planning performances, or exploring new opportunities for pupils, you can connect directly with experienced music leads from across Hertfordshire.

You can request:

- A professional conversation to discuss an idea or challenge
- A face-to-face or online meeting
- A scheduled phone call
- A school visit to see music in action

Interested in connecting with a Lead School for Music? Complete the request form below and a Lead School representative will contact you to discuss the most appropriate next steps.

<https://forms.office.com/e/k3MsZFayS4>

Early Years Music: Recommended Books and Resources

Looking to enrich music-making in your Early Years setting?

Hertfordshire Music Service, in collaboration with **Woolenwick Infant and Nursery School** and **St Catherine's CofE Primary School**, has developed a practical guide of recommended books and resources to support high-quality music provision in EYFS.

The resource includes ideas to support:

- Singing and musical play
- Listening and communication skills
- Rhythm, movement and creativity
- Music-rich learning environments

Whether you are looking for inspiration, refreshing your provision, or building confidence in delivering musical learning, this guide offers a wealth of tried-and-tested recommendations.

Download the guide and explore practical recommendations that can be implemented immediately within your Early Years setting: [Resources](#)

[early-years-music-book-and-resource-recommendations-for-schools.pdf](#)

Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of the **School Music Bulletin**.

As we begin a new academic year, we look forward to working with you to ensure that every child and young person in Hertfordshire has access to high-quality musical opportunities. Whether you are developing your curriculum, growing an ensemble, supporting young musicians, or leading music for the first time, Hertfordshire Music Service is here to support you every step of the way.

We encourage you to make the most of the networking opportunities, CPD events, resources and support available throughout the year, and we always welcome hearing about the fantastic music-making taking place in your schools.

1 September 2026

If you have questions, ideas, success stories, or topics you would like to see featured in future bulletins, please get in touch.

Wishing you a successful, inspiring and musical year ahead.

Christina Luchies
Head of Participation & School Music
Hertfordshire Music Service
Bookings or contact directly:



 christina.luchies@hertfordshire.gov.uk

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

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