

# SCHOOL MUSIC BULLETIN

Issue 29 | 21 September 2026

Welcome to Issue 29. This edition brings together immediate booking opportunities, practical resources and support to help schools strengthen inclusive, high-quality music education. Estimated reading time: 7 minutes.

[View the School Music Bulletin online](#)

## AT A GLANCE

23 September: KS5 Music | Primary Music - New notation CPD series | Black History Month resource  
| EYFS resource | SEND programme | Lead School support

## KS5 music

### KS5 Music Qualifications

**Wednesday 23 September 2026, 4.00-5.00pm**

How can we support young people to achieve and flourish through meaningful and motivating music qualifications? Join colleagues to share practice, challenges and approaches.

[Book now](#)

## KS5 BTEC music

**Wednesday 21 October 2026, 4.00-5.00pm**

How can we maximise engagement, achievement, and progression through vocational music qualifications while preparing students for the realities of the modern music industry? Join colleagues to share practice and explore relevant, inclusive pathways for learners.

[Book now](#)

## Primary Music - Build confidence with staff notation

### Musical Confidence Series: An Introduction to Staff Notation

Designed for primary classroom teachers and non-specialists, this friendly online series offers a gentle introduction to reading and understanding written music. No prior musical knowledge is required.

- Understand the musical stave
- Recognise basic note values and rhythms
- Follow simple melodies
- Develop confidence with musical vocabulary and symbols

Dates: 30 September 2026; 20 January 2027; 21 April 2027.

[Book the Musical Confidence Series](#)

## Top tip: Track participation, not just provision

### A 15-MINUTE PARTICIPATION CHECK

A strong music offer is only fully effective when pupils can access it, see themselves within it and continue to progress. This week, compare who participates in curriculum music, instrumental learning, choirs, ensembles and performances. Look specifically at participation by disadvantaged pupils, pupils with SEND and groups that may be underrepresented.

Ask: Which pupils are not yet taking part, and what is one barrier we can remove? A personal invitation, adapted resource, different rehearsal time, supported first session or help with cost can turn availability into genuine participation.

Choose one small action, assign a named lead and review its effect after half a term. This makes inclusion practical, measurable and easier to sustain.

Have a music leadership, curriculum or participation tip to share? Email [christina.luchies@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:christina.luchies@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

## Resources for schools

### Black History Month: music resource

Hertfordshire Music Service has developed a resource exploring Black history, heritage and contributions to music. Schools can adapt it for lessons, assemblies, activities or a wider year-round focus in primary and secondary settings.

If you use the resource, please share how it supported your pupils and provision so that practice can be celebrated and developed across the county.

[black-history-month-music-resource.pdf](#)

### Early Years music: recommended books and resources

Created with Woolenwick Infant and Nursery School and St Catherine's CofE Primary School, this practical guide supports singing and musical play, listening and communication, rhythm and movement, creativity and music-rich learning environments.

[Download the Early Years resource](#)

## 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 to 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 in Years 9 to 12 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 with an experienced Hertfordshire music lead for practical, peer-to-peer support. You can request a professional conversation, online or face-to-face meeting, scheduled phone call, or school visit.

Support can focus on curriculum development, singing, assessment and progression, enrichment, performances, participation, or music leadership.

[Request support from a Lead School](#)

## Autumn term networking, CPD and events

| Date                | Event / focus                                                | Booking                  |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>23 Sept 2026</b> | KS5: meaningful and motivating music qualifications          | <a href="#">Book now</a> |
| <b>8 Oct 2026</b>   | EYFS: strong musical foundations for lifelong participation  | <a href="#">Book now</a> |
| <b>13 Oct 2026</b>  | Lower KS2: confident, curious and actively engaged musicians | <a href="#">Book now</a> |
| <b>21 Oct 2026</b>  | BTEC: engagement, achievement and vocational progression     | <a href="#">Book now</a> |
| <b>10 Nov 2026</b>  | Upper KS2: sustaining engagement and musical independence    | <a href="#">Book now</a> |
| <b>25 Nov 2026</b>  | Music Leaders: access, participation and progression for all | <a href="#">Book now</a> |

## Looking ahead: spring and summer 2027

| Date               | Event / focus                                               | Booking                  |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>13 Jan 2027</b> | KS4: participation, achievement and sustainable pathways    | <a href="#">Book now</a> |
| <b>11 Feb 2027</b> | SEND Primary School Conference: participation and inclusion | <a href="#">Book now</a> |
| <b>25 Feb 2027</b> | KS1: inclusive experiences, understanding and confidence    | <a href="#">Book now</a> |
| <b>10 Mar 2027</b> | Music Technology and Creative Production                    | <a href="#">Book now</a> |
| <b>19 May 2027</b> | Recruitment and Retention                                   | <a href="#">Book now</a> |
| <b>26 May 2027</b> | Enrichment, Choirs and Ensemble Leaders                     | <a href="#">Book now</a> |
| <b>16 Jun 2027</b> | KS3: engagement, participation and progression              | <a href="#">Book now</a> |
| <b>2 Jul 2027</b>  | Herts Schools Music Expo 2027                               | <a href="#">Book now</a> |

## Save the date

### HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS' GALA

Sunday 12 March 2028. Further information will follow.

## Contact

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