

SCHOOL MUSIC BULLETIN

Issue 32 | 12 October 2026

Welcome to Issue 32. This week, use our new “This Is Not...” poster collection to make the wider value of music visible, explore therapeutic music for nurture groups, connect music with Black History Month 2026, and book upcoming CPD, networking and events. Estimated reading time: 6 minutes.

[View the School Music Bulletin online](#)

AT A GLANCE

“This Is Not...” posters | Therapeutic music for nurture groups | Black History Month 2026 | Autumn CPD | SEND conference | Herts Schools Music Expo

Top tip:

Make the value of music visible

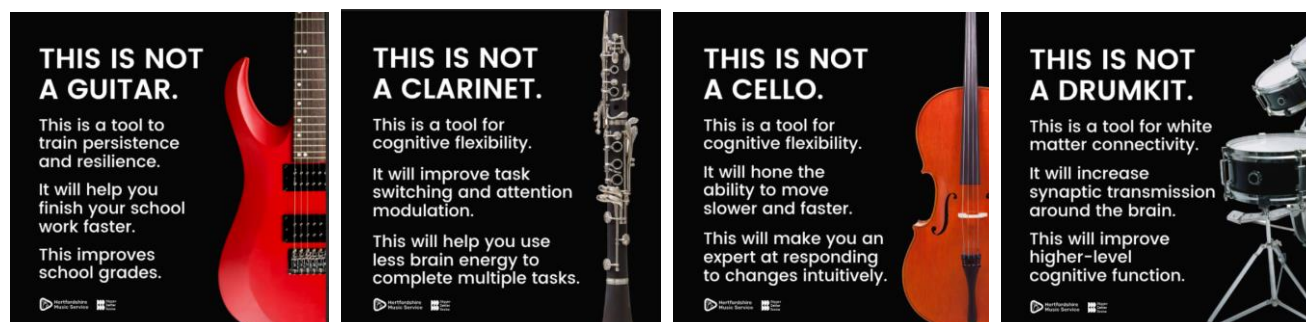
Attached to this bulletin is a ZIP file containing 35 “This Is Not...” posters. Each poster features a different musical instrument and helps communicate that learning music develops much more than the ability to play an instrument.

Download and unzip the folder, then use the posters to champion music across your school:

- display them in corridors, reception areas and teaching spaces;
- rotate them regularly to feature different instruments;
- share them on school screens, in newsletters and at open events;
- include them in presentations to staff, governors and families; and
- place them alongside information about lessons, ensembles and performances.

Try this: choose a poster that connects with music already happening in your school and display it alongside photographs of pupils making music. Across the year, rotate the full set to create a whole-school “Music Is More Than...” campaign.

To access the posters: download the ZIP file attached to this bulletin and extract the files before opening, printing or sharing them.



SEND Conference spotlight: Tuning In to Autism

Thursday 11 February 2027 | 9.30am-3.30pm | Southfield School, Hatfield

We are delighted that Professor Adam Ockelford and colleagues will contribute to the Hertfordshire SEND Primary School Conference, sharing work connected with Tuning In to Autism.

The session will explore how music can support autistic children's communication, interaction, learning and wellbeing. Delegates will be introduced to practical resources and approaches that can help schools, SEND settings and early years providers create more responsive and inclusive musical experiences.

Professor Adam Ockelford is Professor of Music at the University of Roehampton and an internationally recognised researcher in music, autism and special educational abilities and needs. He founded Sounds of Intent, a framework and collection of resources that supports practitioners to understand and develop the musical engagement of children and young people with diverse needs and abilities.

The conference will bring together keynote contributions, practical workshops and shared practice focused on removing barriers and enabling every child to participate, progress and thrive through music.

[Book the SEND Primary School Conference](#)

Book now: upcoming autumn opportunities

No prior musical knowledge or training is required.

Tuesday 13 October 2026 | 4.00-5.00pm

Lower KS2: confident, curious and actively engaged musicians

Share approaches that inspire pupils in Years 3 and 4 to develop as confident, curious and actively engaged musicians.

[Book now](#)

Wednesday 21 October 2026 | 4.00-5.00pm

BTEC Music: engagement, achievement and vocational progression

Explore how vocational music qualifications can maximise engagement and achievement while preparing students for the realities of the modern music industry.

[Book now](#)

Save these dates

Herts Schools Music Expo 2027

2 July 2027

Creating a Music Education Ecosystem in Hertfordshire that Inspires Lifelong Participation and Musical Growth

A day of discovery, connection and inspiration for school leaders, music subject leaders and educators, alongside cultural partners and national music industry professionals. Explore programmes, resources, services and partnerships that can help pupils participate, progress and thrive. Venue and programme details will be shared with registered delegates.

[Book the Herts Schools Music Expo](#)

Programme spotlight

Therapeutic music for nurture groups

Music can provide a safe, structured way for pupils to communicate, build relationships and experience success. Hertfordshire Music Service can work with schools to shape therapeutic music provision for nurture groups, tailored to the needs of the pupils and the setting.

- support communication, interaction and self-expression through music;
- build confidence, trust and positive relationships;
- offer predictable musical routines and opportunities for choice; and
- complement the school's wider nurture, inclusion and wellbeing support.

Find out more: [Therapeutic Music and SEND services](#)

Resources

National focus: Black History Month 2026 - Honouring Our Communities

Black History Month takes place throughout October. This year's national theme, Honouring Our Communities, invites schools to recognise the creativity, leadership and contribution of Black people within communities across Britain.

Music offers a powerful way for pupils to explore identity, heritage, culture and social change. Use listening, performing, composing and discussion to broaden the range of musical stories represented in your curriculum.

[Explore the Black History Month 2026 theme](#)

CURRICULUM REFLECTION

Whose musical stories are represented in your curriculum? Consider where pupils encounter Black British musicians, composers and musical traditions, and how this learning can continue throughout the year rather than being limited to October.

Try this: select one piece by a Black British artist or composer as a stimulus for listening, movement, performance, poetry, artwork or pupil composition.

[Download the HMS Black History Month music resource](#)

Have music leadership, curriculum or participation tips to share? Email christina.luchies@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Early Years music: recommended books and resources

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

[Download the Early Years music resource](#)

BBC Ten Pieces: free national classroom resources

BBC Ten Pieces offers free films, performances, lesson plans and creative activities that support listening, performing and composing. Resources can be used by specialist and non-specialist teachers and provide useful starting points for cross-curricular responses through movement, poetry, art and digital creativity.

[Explore BBC Ten Pieces resources](#)

Support

Lead Schools for Music

Connect with an experienced Hertfordshire music lead for practical peer-to-peer support. Request a professional conversation, online or face-to-face meeting, scheduled phone call or school visit focused on curriculum, singing, assessment, progression, enrichment, performances, participation or leadership.

[Request support from a Lead School](#)

Head of Participation & School Music

Christina Luchies

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Autumn term networking, CPD and events

Date	Event / focus	Booking
8 Oct 2026	EYFS: strong musical foundations for lifelong participation	Book now
13 Oct 2026	Lower KS2: confident, curious and actively engaged musicians	Book now
21 Oct 2026	BTEC: engagement, achievement and vocational progression	Book now
10 Nov 2026	Upper KS2: engagement and musical independence	Book now
25 Nov 2026	Music Leaders: access, participation and progression for all	Book now

Spring and summer term diary

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

Partners

Herts for Learning Traded CPD

2 Mar 2027	Leading primary music across your school	Book now
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Looking further ahead

HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS' GALA

Sunday 12 March 2028. Further information will follow.

Contact

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