

Dorset Music Hub Schools' Update – January 2024



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Welcome

Welcome to 2024 with Dorset Music Hub. It's wonderful to look back and take stock with some brief 2023 headlines showing that - despite many challenges - musical learning amongst children and young people continued to thrive throughout the year.

We extend our thanks to all across the whole Music Hub community for all your work, and particularly to those school colleagues that have contributed to annual data collection for the DfE. We are developing a supportive digital system that will not only help us capture data about musical learning more easily, but also support the administration (and ease the workload!) around musical learning in school and for tutors themselves. We will share more information on this soon and invite colleagues to be part of its development to help ensure we are getting it right.

With such [shifts in the national music education sector](#), and the introduction of the new [National Plan for Music Education](#) last year, the commitment and willingness to take up CPD and training opportunities from

across Dorset schools has been really encouraging and we will continue to build on this approach in 2024. Changes in the DMS team reflect these developments, with our focus shifting towards how we can best use our resources and expertise to develop the confidence and capacity across the school-based and wider music education workforce - and where we can add value to existing initiatives.

This should all add up to the 'sustainable support system' that music hub lead organisations are funded through the DfE and Arts Council England to provide. This ambition is undoubtedly shared by many and evidenced in much of the feedback we receive. We all want to enable more pupils to thrive through their engagement with musical and creative learning.

If you have ideas about how we can all work together to do just that, please get involved in the conversation:

- Take up opportunities to connect with our Music Area Leads (MALs) and locality colleagues through our Locality Music Networks – to plan and learn together
- Meet with our MAL team to get support with your own School Music Development Plans
- Get involved in consultations around support for instrumental and vocal tuition or the upcoming review of the Musicianship Programme (in line with the updated guidance on 'classroom instrumental learning' with the [NPME](#))
- Participate in a focused 'special interest groups' (school -based practice, EY Music, instrumental learning & groups, Music Tech and Youth Led, Inclusion and the network supporting cultural education) to help shape the overall Hub offer and feed into the DMH Governance board.

Keep an eye out for more updates and details – and [please get in touch](#) to discuss your support needs, or to tell us *your* great idea to help get more young people in Dorset Making Music!

Dorset Music Hub

2023 Review

Over **4,500** young people participated in DMH-led music making.

Over **700** pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium funding directly benefitted from DMH provision.

Over **400** young people with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities participated in DMH-led music making.



Led by Dorset Music Service

Young People

Over 4,000 Primary-aged pupils completed ten weeks of whole class instrumental learning on ukulele, guitar, recorder, Digital Audio Workstation or samba percussion as part of the DMH Musicianship Programme.

DMH expanded its **DJ-ing and Music Technology** workshops across the county with over 120 young people benefitting from working alongside our experienced music leaders in a range of settings.

"Robin worked with our young people exceptionally!"

More than 100 pupils regularly attended **inclusive** ensembles and groups, such as Open Orchestras and Youth Voice workshops, run or facilitated by DMH

"Rosco is building great relationships... and the young people really like him."

Over 50 pupils completed a course of DMH **Creative Musical Nurture Groups** designed to help with their social, emotional or mental health needs alongside other strategies already being implemented in their schools.



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16 young people benefitted from targeted 1:1 **music mentoring** designed to help with their social, emotional or mental health needs. This included provision for pupils who were not attending an educational setting.

The **Dorset Youth Jazz Orchestra (DYJO)** continued to go from strength-to-strength with performances across the county, including at the internationally renowned Swanage Jazz Festival.

DMH supported or ran a range of activities for the **Holiday And Food Activity Programme** during the school holidays.

"I was impressed with the engagement of children of all ages with the instruments."

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MUSIC EDUCATION WORKFORCE

All DMH schools received subsidised membership to the fantastic 'Sing Up' and 'Charanga' digital resources to open up the world of music to our pupils - at school and at home. This partnership approach brings increased value for money for all - and increased equity of access to creative digital music-making, as well as lot of CPD and support for staff!

To develop music making in the Early Years, 48 young children benefitted from working with our Early Years Music Practitioners in their nursery setting.

306 school staff and independent music teachers from across Dorset engaged in CPD activities

DMH provided two county-wide music conferences, attended by over 150 stakeholders.



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"Thank you! Hands down THE most useful and inspiring day of training I've had in my 7 years of teaching. The children at my school will definitely benefit!"

"Everything was useful and it has inspired me to go back and share things I have learnt with my colleagues."

"I thought it was an excellent course. Great choice of workshops and I can apply what I learnt to my teaching and hopefully encourage other staff to be more confident in music."

"I think the event was excellent and I came away absolutely buzzing with excitement."

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Partnership Collaborations

DMH worked with a range of partners such as BSharp, Royal Opera House, Benedetti Foundation, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Changing Key Dorset and Dorset Council (and so many more!)

Dorset Music Hub was delighted to collaborate with the **Benedetti Foundation** to bring their acclaimed residency sessions to Dorset in October. Over 1,000 Dorset pupils benefitted from this project through workshops in our primary schools, middle schools and SEND settings. The week culminated in a specialist string day for pupils learning the violin, viola, cello or double bass and was attended by over 80 young string players.

As well as inspiring the children and young people of Dorset, the Benedetti Foundation ran an after-school training session for class teachers, and a session for instrumental tutors, providing a wealth of ideas to take back to their schools and pupils to enhance their provision. We know the impact of that session will reach a large cohort of children and young people who weren't able to participate directly through the boost of inspiration and support their teachers received.

ALSO: **Royal Opera House** delivered school workshops in Purbeck on their innovative Create & Sing initiative

BSharp, Babigton & STEPS Youth Club collectively secured over £330,000 in additional funding from Youth Music to support music-making with young people, workforce development and support for music in the Early Years

Changing Key Dorset agreed bursaries totalling over £10k to support young musicians facing financial barriers

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra their Explore the Orchestra concert was shared with thousands of Dorset pupils at The Lighthouse, and also through streamed broadcasts



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"I gained a lot from the CPD session... and have been using ideas from that during my teaching since then - with success!"

"I just wanted to say a big thank you for putting on the Benedetti Foundation session for music teachers last week. I found it so inspiring and helpful."

"It was a great experience for my two pupils to spend a whole day playing with so many other young string players."

"[My child] had a wonderful day and was truly inspired by all the people she met and played alongside."

*"The Benedetti day was wonderful!
All my pupils loved it, so inspiring!"*

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CPD day for Music Subject Leaders

Join us for a full day of training tailored to your CPD needs!

Using the feedback we have gained from School Music Development Plan meetings and other events, we have identified the current main CPD development needs in our schools and are going to hold a full day of CPD to cover these needs.

Throughout this full day event, you will have the opportunity to pick and choose from a range of CPD training sessions, attending the ones that are most pertinent to you and your school's development needs. You can come and go as you please throughout the day!

We are condensing many strands of our CPD offer into this full day event rather than spreading them across the year in shorter sessions to make it easier for you to be released from your classes to attend - and make it cheaper for your school!

Save the date... **Monday 25th March 2024**

- Venue: **Charlton Down Village Hall** near Dorchester (DT2 9UA)
- Timings: 9:30am - 3:00pm
- Cost: **FREE** - as part of your Dorset Music Hub membership

*Look out for **more details coming soon** about the CPD sessions that will be on offer and how to book your place!*

Spring Term network meetings - new dates

Come along to this term's network meetings and join your local Music Area Leader (Hannah, Pili, Dianne or Pete), along with musicians and music organisations local to your area.

- Chesil area with Pili: 30th January 4.00pm-5.00pm (Virtual)
- West Dorset area with Hannah: 1st February 3.45pm-4.45pm (Virtual)
- North Dorset area with Dianne: 30th January 3.30pm-4.30pm (Virtual)
- Purbeck area with Pili: 1st February 1.00pm-2.00pm (Virtual)
- East Dorset area with Pete: 1st February 4.00pm-5.00pm (In-person: Oakhurst First School, West Moors, BH22 0DY)

Look out for more details from our team via email and on Padlet

We've changed the dates of these network meetings as many of you got in touch to say that the previous dates clashed with this term's parents' evenings.

[Follow this link to see the Summer Term dates for local area network meetings and to contact our Music Area Leaders](#)

Dorset Youth Jazz Orchestra performance with Emma Rawicz

The multi-award-winning young saxophonist [Emma Rawicz](#) joined the Dorset Youth Jazz Orchestra for a sell-out performance in December.

The performance included established jazz standards and more recent pieces, such as Ezra Collective's 'Victory Dance', and showcased Emma's exceptional improvising alongside that of the talented young musicians of the Dorset Youth Jazz Orchestra (DYJO).

The performance was part of the [SoundCellar](#) jazz series and you can [listen here to an audio recording of the performance](#) hosted on their website.

If you have students who might be interested in joining DYJO, please sign-post them to the [DYJO page of the DMS website](#).

Creative Musical Nurture Groups

Help boost the resilience and confidence of your most vulnerable pupils through this exciting programme.

A Creative Musical Nurture Group (CMNG) is a weekly creative, instrumental music session for 3-5 children in KS2 or KS3. Participants are identified by schools as being vulnerable and at risk of poor outcomes due to mental health, behaviour, or general confidence difficulties.

The CMNG provides a calm and nurturing environment where children can build their resilience and agency and develop a sense of belonging through music.

Each CMNG of 3-5 children has a cost of £400, based around 1 term's delivery - Dorset Music Hub will fund 25% of the cost. For advice on how to fund the remaining £300, [please contact your Education Challenge Lead at your local locality office](#).

If you have pupils who you think would benefit from a CMNG, please discuss this offer with your SENCo as they will need to be involved throughout the process.

For more information, and to express your interest in a CMNG for your school, please contact us at dorsetmusicservice@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Music Mentoring - for students experiencing barriers to education

Our Music Mentoring programme is tailored towards young people with social, emotional and/or mental health barriers, and with personal outcomes such as developing resilience, agency and a sense of belonging through music. These outcomes are just as important as musical ones in this 1:1 programme.

The programme comprises ten weekly sessions that last for 45 minutes each. During the sessions, the leader guides the young person in making his/her/their own music. This music is created with the help of an online digital audio workstation (BandLab). The use of instruments (or vocals) is optional. Typically, by the end of the programme, the young person will have completed several tracks or songs.

It's possible to arrange sessions at the student's home, in school, or at other alternative settings such as youth centres.

[More details and booking information](#)

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra KS4/GCSE concert

We are delighted to announce this exciting opportunity for students studying GCSE music...

This BSO concert on Friday 1st March at Westlands Entertainment Venue in Yeovil is specifically designed for Key Stage 4 GCSE students. We are working in partnership with colleagues from Somerset's music hub and The Octagon Theatre team to create this important opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of their GCSE curriculum.

[Please complete this form to indicate that you would like to bring a group.](#)

Timings are as below to allow for travelling back and forth within the school day.

- **Arrive: From 11am**
- **Concert begins: 11.30am**
- **Expected finish/depart: 1pm**

There will be the chance for students' ideas to be incorporated into a composition element of the presentation - we will email a document to all schools that register so your students' ideas can be included in the presentation.

Spotlight on localities

This is a new feature of our regular updates where we aim to highlight examples of exciting events and opportunities, and share inspiring stories from our localities.

If you have something to share from your school, or local area, please tell us about it so we can feature it in a future edition!

West Dorset

Christmas Cheer Event

Bridport residents were treated to performances by local school choirs in Bucky Doo Square as part of the Bridport Christmas Cheer event on the 6th December. Schools performed for 90 minutes of the event with involvement from Bridport St.Mary's, Bridport Primary School, Loders School, Burton Bradstock school, Powerstock School and Salway Ash School.

Opera Project!

Symondsbury School and Sir John Colfox School are leading the way in community music making in West Dorset and are putting on the opera 'The Magic Flute' in collaboration with community musician Matt Kingston, and other local primary schools. The performance is due to take place in March and based on previous projects they have done, it looks to be a performance not to be missed! A fantastic example of how schools can work together to produce memorable musical experiences for their children and young people.

West Dorset Schools music event

West Dorset Schools are looking forward to a collaborative music event for their year 6 pupils on May 20th 2024. Local organisations and secondary schools will be putting on a range of performances for primary schools at Bridport Arts Centre with year 6's enjoying the show and being a part of the celebration with some massed singing. If you are a school in Bridport, Beaminster or Lyme Regis locality and would like to join this free musical event then drop us an email – hannah.reeves@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

A message from Lyme Regis Town Band

We are about to re-start our Training Band which provides tuition for both adults and children over the age of eight. Lessons take place at Woodmead Halls on Tuesday evenings from 7.00 pm until 7.45 pm and run termly. We have to make a nominal charge of £35 per term, purely to cover the cost of the room hire but we provide instruments on loan and music free of charge. We have two qualified teachers available who are both talent musicians and our last batch of trainees - one adult and three youngsters - have now progressed to the full band so our training programme works well. Our new term starts next Tuesday, 9th January so if you are aware of anyone who would benefit - young or old - please put them in touch with us. The training band is also useful for people who have not played for a while but would like to return to it.

Purbeck and Lytchett

DMH partnership with Purbeck Youth Music

There is lots going on in Purbeck thanks to our very successful partnership with the charity [Purbeck Youth Music](#) (PYM) which exists to inspire, encourage and develop young people in Purbeck through an extensive network of professional musicians and instrumental teachers, providing lessons and instruments and a programme of interactive presentations, workshops and ensembles.

During the Autumn Term, PYM has taken their brass quintet 'Conical Sonicals' to primary schools and has arranged and/or facilitated for many instrumental lessons to take place, including helping families with lesson fees where needed.

PYM has also organised performance opportunities for young players and singers in different community events, including performances by the PYM Trad group at the Swanage Folk Festival, and by the Purbeck Brass Juniors and Purbeck Youth Music Ambassadors at the St Aldhelm's Christmas Tree Festival.

[Visit the PYM Facebook page for more details of these and other events.](#)

Chesil

DMH projects in Weymouth and Portland youth centres

Since July 2023, DMH has worked with *The Drop-In Centre* in Portland to host the Chesil Youth Voice music project which is led by Rossco. The group meets on Wednesday evenings and discusses what kind of music they want to make and learn. From these discussions, music production has been identified as something that many of the young people want to learn so Rossco has set up a mini studio in the youth club where the young people are learning how to use a digital audio workstation, and they are already recording and producing their own tracks! If you know of anybody who would like to get involved, please contact *The Drop-In Centre* directly: 07842 762 363 / administrator@thedropinportland.com.

East Dorset

National Music Mark Awards success!

Scott Welcomme, Music Subject Leader at Ferndown Middle School, won the 'Dynamism' award at the annual Music Mark national conference.

Nominated by Pete Whitmarsh, DMH Music Area Lead for East Dorset, Scott's nomination was for music projects with small groups of vulnerable pupils from Ferndown Middle School over the last two years.

Scott teaches all 605 students at the school and provides a wide range of activities. This includes a music theatre group, samba band, ukulele club, and more.

Scott's success was featured in a recent edition of the Bournemouth Echo - [follow this link to read the full article](#).

Musicianship Programme success

Congratulations to Musicianship Programme pupils at St. Mary's First School (West Moors) and St. Ives Primary School who successfully achieved their Trinity College Arts Award Discover Level to a very high standard!

North Dorset

Gillingham School

Students from Years 10 and 11 at Gillingham School have been applying their musical skills to turntabling. They were inspired by watching one of their fellow students performing and, with him offering support, have been able to achieve some great results of their own!

On the last day of term, 14 instrumental students volunteered to go carolling. As well as spreading some Christmas joy around the school site, they visited a local care home to entertain their residents.

For more details about this and other news, visit the [Gillingham School Facebook page](#).

Dorchester area

Wessex Schools Music (part of the Wessex Multi-Academy Trust) run several weekly beginner and intermediate ensembles for strings, wind and brass players on a Wednesday at the Thomas Hardy School in Dorchester. The ensembles are open to any young people in the local area, even if they don't attend a Wessex MAT school.

- 4pm-4.50pm *Stringalings* (training string ensemble for grade 0-3 orchestral strings)
- 4pm - 4.50pm *Bandemonium* (beginner wind band for grade 0-2 woodwind and brass)
- 5pm-6pm *Dorchester Children's Orchestra* (for approx. grade 2 - 5)

Costs are £35 per term.

More info and online application can be found on the website: music.wessex.ac

Key Stage 1 Instrument Appeal

Does your school have a set of Key Stage 1 instruments which was provided by Dorset Music Hub but is no longer used?

In 2021 and 2022, DMH provided many First and Primary schools with a set of instruments aimed to be used with Key Stage 1 pupils. The sets we provided were...

We realise that, for various reasons, some of these instruments are no longer (or very rarely) used in some schools. If that's the case in your school, we'd love to hear from you!

- If you know the set of instruments you have isn't going to be used - but you would like a set of one of the other alternatives listed above - we can help you arrange a **swap** with another school.

- If you know the set of instruments you have isn't going to be used - and you don't want a set of any of the other alternatives listed above - we will arrange to **collect** them so that we can add them to our instrument library for other schools to use.
- If you haven't been using the set of instruments but you would like to start, please let us know and we can offer you **support** to make this happen!

Hub membership - don't forget to renew!

Is your school benefiting from DMH membership?

To ensure your school can take full advantage of the many benefits of Dorset Music Hub (DMH) membership in the coming year - including training, CPD programmes, resources, Musicianship Programme delivery and so much more - renew your membership via the [Dorset Music Hub page on Nexus](#).

If your school is having the KS2 Musicianship Programme this academic year, please ensure you have purchased your hub membership.

Musicianship Programme - extra classes

Have you booked more than one class onto the Musicianship Programme?

The standard whole-class Musicianship Programme, included as part of DMH membership, is for one class per school. If you have planned for more than one class to participate this year, you need to purchase additional classes (at £126 each) via the [Dorset Music Hub page on Nexus](#).

Band Storm competition for secondary pupils

Closing date - Sunday 21st January

Our colleagues at SoundStorm (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Music Hub) are running this exciting event which is also open to students from across Dorset.

If you have students aged 13 – 18 who are in a band, please promote this event with them – the closing date for entries is fast approaching!

[More information about Band Storm, and how to enter, can be found on the SoundStorm website.](#)