

MUSIC ON SEA NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

Welcome to the Music on Sea (MOS) April newsletter! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out via musiconsea@southend.gov.uk.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find:

- An Update from Kitt Garner
- Key Updates
- Projects and Performance Opportunities
- Sharing Successes
- Safeguarding
- Greater Essex Music Hub (GEMH) Update
- Key Contacts

An Update from Kitt Garner

Happy summer term! I hope you had a relaxing and restorative Easter break, taking time to pause, recharge, and prepare for the busy run up to summer 2026. With spring now in full swing, our programme is blossoming - offering more chances than ever for Southend's young people to come together, be creative, and make music across the city.

This half term is set to be a noisy one, with new instruments finding their way into schools and homes, tutors ready to deliver a wide range of fresh provision, and a special night of performances on the horizon. From those in their early days to Southend's capable, confident young musicians, you can find out more about our upcoming opportunities for children of all musical abilities in this newsletter.

Thank you, as always, for being part of our journey. Your ongoing support and enthusiasm continue to shape what we do and make our work possible. We're looking forward to sharing more updates with you as the term unfolds and celebrating all the music yet to be made.

Kitt Garner, Lead Officer for the Music Service



Key Updates

Music on Sea (MOS) Partnership Board

MOS is pleased to announce the creation of a new local level board! The new board will bring together Southend-based colleagues to provide strategic advice, local insight and constructive challenge, ensuring that our work continues to reflect the needs and opportunities within the city's music education landscape.

The board will:

- Provide strategic oversight of local music education
- Offer expert advice and informed challenge
- Share local intelligence from schools, community groups and cultural partners
- Strengthen collaboration across Southend's music education ecology
- Support inclusive, high-quality provision by identifying gaps and opportunities

Nomination of Head teacher members is taking place via the respective (primary and secondary) Head teacher networks. We are also seeking two school music leads (also primary and secondary) to join the board via written expressions of interest. With the approval of your Head teacher (to be given before you express an interest please) we welcome a short paragraph outlining your skills and experience in music education. Please send this to: musiconseasouthend@southend.gov.uk before the end of Wednesday 5th May 2026. Meetings will take place at least once per term. The first meeting will take place at the Civic Centre on Thursday 21st May 2026. If you have any questions about this exciting opportunity please also contact: musiconseasouthend@southend.gov.uk

We look forward to hearing from colleagues who are keen to help shape the future of music education in Southend!

Project and Performance Opportunities

Secondary Concert - *Amplify*

We're excited to announce that MOS will be running our annual concert for bands in Southend schools this summer term. This event is always a highlight of the year, giving young rock and pop musicians the chance to perform on a professional stage and celebrate more of the incredible talent across our schools.

This year, Amplify will be taking place at The Fickle Pickle Club, Westcliff-on-Sea, on 13th May 2026.

Schools have received invitations and full event information is to come, so please keep an eye on upcoming newsletters and your inbox. We look forward to welcoming your students and showcasing the fantastic work happening in music across Southend. If you have any questions in the meantime, direct any questions to musiconseasouthend@southend.gov.uk.

Bursary Opportunities for Young Musicians

Southend Choirs is delighted to announce that applications are now open for the annual music bursary scheme, operated on behalf of two former charities: the ESU and the Birn Young Musician of the Year. These awards are designed to support the next generation of talented musicians in our community.

The scheme offers two bursaries at £500 and £250 and is open to young musicians up to age 25. Applicants must either be currently studying music at a higher education institution or be in Year 13 and planning to



begin a music degree the following September. To be eligible, applicants must live or study in Southend, Castle Point or Rochford.

We encourage all young musicians in the areas to consider applying - contact southendchoirs@gmail.com for more information.

Sharing Successes

The Orchestrate Project and WCET

Over recent weeks, a large number of brand-new instruments have been delivered to schools and settings around our city, marking the commencement of the Orchestrate project for secondary schools. Seeing these instruments arrive in schools has generated real enthusiasm among staff and pupils alike, and we're thrilled to be supporting more young people to begin their musical journeys.

These new resources give pupils hands-on access to quality instruments and the opportunity to learn together as part of a small group of like-minded learners. This investment will ensure consistent, inclusive provision and help develop key musical skills and confidence.

In addition, WCET bookings across Southend schools have continued to grow, reflecting an increasing recognition of the value of high-quality, whole class music provision. More primary schools are choosing to engage with WCET as a consistent and inclusive way to introduce pupils to instrumental learning, often for the first time. This growth highlights strong confidence in the programme and a shared commitment to ensuring that every child has access to meaningful musical opportunities, regardless of background or prior experience.

Safeguarding

A Letter of Assurance to cover MOS staff and tutors is issued to all schools and educational settings (compliance with safer recruitment, vetting, and statutory safeguarding checks). The letter can be found here: [Education | Safeguarding Southend Partnership](#)

Our full safeguarding procedures are detailed in the Greater Essex Music Hub Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy, which outlines our responsibilities, reporting processes, and the measures in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every child we work with. The policy can be accessed here: [Greater Essex Music Hub Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy](#).

Safeguarding Contacts

DBS Update Service: 0300 020 0190 / customerservices@dbs.gov.uk

MASH+ Children's Social Care, Southend-on-Sea City Council: 01702 215007 or 0345 606 1212 (out of hours for urgent referrals) / fct@southend.gov.uk

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer): lado@southend.gov.uk

Safeguarding Advisor: Sharon Langston 01702 534591 / safeguardingforchildren@southend.gov.uk

Greater Essex Music Hub (GEMH) Update

This can be found here: [Home - Greater Essex Music Hub](#)



Key Contacts

Your first point of contact is Ted Groves at musiconsea@southend.gov.uk.

Who Do I Contact If I Have a Question?

I have a safeguarding concern/disclosure	Kitt Garner, DSL	kittgarner@southend.gov.uk
I'd like to request music provision	Ted Groves	musiconsea@southend.gov.uk
I have a challenge with a tutor	Kitt Garner, DSL	kittgarner@southend.gov.uk
I have a challenge with a provider/partner	Kitt Garner, DSL	kittgarner@southend.gov.uk
I'd like to discuss a sensitive matter	Kitt Garner, DSL	kittgarner@southend.gov.uk
I have a query about an SLA/agreement	Ted Groves	musiconsea@southend.gov.uk

The Music on Sea Team

Kitt Garner	Music Service Lead Officer & Designated Safeguarding Lead
Edward (Ted) Groves	Music Service Support Officer
Julie Hollingsworth	Senior Advisor and Manager for the Service
Amanda Champ	Head of Performance, Partnerships & Safeguarding