

MUSIC ON SEA NEWSLETTER

End of term 2025 – 2026: July 2026

Welcome to our final Music on Sea (MOS) 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
- Project, Performance and CPD Opportunities
- Safeguarding
- Key Contacts

An Update from Kitt Garner

As I prepare to leave my role as Lead Officer for the Music Service, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your support, partnership and commitment to music education over the past year.

As an experienced teacher and school leader, I am incredibly proud to have spent this year working at a strategic, system-wide level within music education. It has been a privilege to collaborate with so many inspiring leaders, teachers and colleagues, and I will certainly miss the opportunity to support and learn from such a dedicated network.

Together, we have achieved a great deal. The introduction of our Secondary Small Group Programme has enabled 60 young people across the city to begin learning an orchestral instrument through fully funded tuition and free instrument hire. Our WCET+ programme has provided valuable progression opportunities for pupils in schools delivering their own Key Stage 2 whole-class music programmes. The launch of our second community music provision, Southend Music Centre, has been a tremendous success, extending access to high-quality musical opportunities for even more children and young people.

These achievements are just a few examples of the collective impact we have made. From widening access to music and enriching young people's experiences, to strengthening and developing music provision across the city, we have made significant progress together. I leave confident that music education in Southend is in a stronger position than ever before and that this important work will continue to grow, thrive and inspire future generations.

With all best wishes,
Kitt Garner



Key Updates

Booking your tuition/curriculum packages provision for September 2026

Please ensure that you inform us of your needs for September by completing the Music on Sea 2026-27 School Booking Form. The link is here: [Music on Sea: School Booking Form 2026-27 – Fill in form](#) to book:

- **Curriculum Resource package**
- **Whole Class Instrumental Tuition**
- **Music Curriculum or PPA cover**
- **Workshops**
- **In-school ensembles**
- **Small Group Instrumental Tuition at KS3**

The form will begin by asking for background information from you and then you will be able to select the provision you wish to book. You can save and return to the form at a later date.

For each section you will be asked if you would like to book that provision. Click 'next' to move onto the next section quickly.

Please note that **requests for 1:1 instrumental or vocal tuition should be sent directly to musiconsea@southend.gov.uk.**

When submitting your requests for 1:1 tuition, please include **a)** The instrument(s) for which you would like to arrange tuition. **b)** The anticipated number of tuition hours required for each instrument. *Please note that this information is requested for planning purposes only and can be adjusted once pupil numbers have been confirmed. Please remember to inform families of any costs after the SLA is finalised. Terms and Conditions can be found on the Music on Sea website.*

Staffing Update

We say our goodbyes to staff leaving Music on Sea. Lynn Walsh has worked for Music on Sea, and previously Southend Music Service, for an incredible 36 years. Lynn is retiring at the end of this term. Caron Hiscock leaves us also after many years of dedicated service. We thank them both for their time with the service and dedicated careers to supporting and inspiring young musicians across our city. Louise O'Connor also leaves us, as she relocates to a different part of the UK. We offer our deepest thanks and appreciation to them all.

We are delighted to welcome Liberty, Josh and Conor to our team of music tutors from September 2026. All three bring a wealth of talent and experience, and we are confident they will make a valuable contribution to our service, further strengthen our teaching team and add capacity to meet your needs.

Project, Performance and CPD Opportunities

The Beat LAB

In conjunction The Song School, we are excited to be running two holiday provisions for young people across our city:



- Day 1: Monday 3 August 2026 (Ages 7-10)

- Day 2: Thursday 6th August (Ages 11+)

This one-day workshop will introduce complete beginners to rhythm, in a fun, supportive group environment. Participants will build musical skills (timing, coordination and listening), while developing confidence, communication & teamwork. Open to all, and designed to be supportive for neurodivergent young people, through predictable routines, clear roles, repetition and a calm, welcoming space.

Workshops will include a drumming circle and introduction to supportive technologies such as beat-making and DJ skills. The workshop is for anyone ages 7-10, interested in drumming and technology.

For more details please see: [School Holiday Music Workshops, Southend-On-Sea — The Song School](#)

Safeguarding

A Letter of Assurance will be sent to cover MOS staff in the new term. This will cover staff new to the service. The letter will 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@dbb.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

Key Contacts

Your first point of contact over the summer break is Ted Groves at musiconsea@southend.gov.uk.

We wish you all a very restful summer break and look forward to seeing you in the new term.