

Lincolnshire Music Service

Celebration Report 2025-26



Introduction

At Lincolnshire Music Service, we believe that every child and young person should have the opportunity to experience the joy, creativity, and lifelong benefits that music brings. Throughout the 2025–26 academic year, thousands of pupils across Lincolnshire have participated in inspiring musical opportunities, from first experiences of playing an instrument to large-scale performances, residential courses, workshops, and county ensembles.

This report celebrates just some of the remarkable achievements, experiences, and personal journeys that have taken place over the past year. Through the dedication of our tutors, school staff, partners, families, and most importantly our young musicians, we continue to nurture confidence, creativity, teamwork, and musical excellence across the county.

The following stories and reflections showcase the positive impact that music is having on children and young people throughout Lincolnshire and demonstrate how music education continues to enrich lives, inspire ambition, and create lasting memories.



Measuring our Impact



National Award: LMS, along with MEHEM secured Award for **Progressive and Inclusive Music Education**



Delivered training and opportunities to over 650 school-based teachers including the regional Music Education Conference, attended by the Department for Education, in June 2025.



14,279 pupils received instrumental and/or singing lessons with LMS with 100% of pupils outlining they enjoyed their lessons with LMS



96% of schools in Lincolnshire engaged with Lincolnshire Music Service



100% of schools describing the Service & Partnership with LMS as good or better
100% of schools described LMS' as good value for money



6,000 young people accessed additional live music and workshop opportunities delivered by LMS



81% of those pupils learning received tuition for **FREE** via whole-class instrumental lessons in partnership with schools



LMS secured record levels of successful external grants amounting to around £1.6 million from Department for Education, Youth Music, Arts Council England as well as local charities such as FLINSO



A further 485 pupils (21%) received discounted lessons through means and non-means tested grants and bursaries - 63 children and young people in care received fully funded weekly lessons



666 pupils accessed music centres and county groups



96% of families described the Quality of the Lessons with LMS as 'Good' or better

See our
Case Studies



Case Study 01: Early Years and First Musical Experiences

“Lincolnshire Music Service have delivered the Infant Music Programme sessions at YMCA Honeypot for many years now. The children love the experiences and look forward in anticipation to the weekly sessions. The aspects of musical learning and development, hearing and listening, vocalising and singing, moving and dancing and exploring and playing are all very visible within the delivery of the Infant Music Programme sessions. The children are actively engaging in a range of planned activities developing their musicality, language and communication and are responsive to learning lots of new songs, rhymes, rhythm, movement, beat etc. Parents have had opportunities to participate alongside their children joining us for sessions. The sessions are extremely beneficial and support both the prime and specific areas of the EYFS.”

Honeypot Nursery

See the case
study, [here](#)

Case Study 02:

Inclusive Music Education

Lincolnshire Music Service piloted its innovative HeadStart Whole Class Ensemble Tuition model at Spilsby Primary School. Through careful preparation, inclusive practice and targeted support, every pupil remained engaged and made meaningful musical progress, demonstrating the positive impact of accessible music education.

During Spring 2025, Lincolnshire Music Service piloted its innovative HeadStart Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET) model at Spilsby Primary School with a Year 4 class learning brass instruments. The cohort included pupils with a range of special educational needs, providing an ideal opportunity to explore how an inclusive approach could remove barriers to musical participation and help every child experience success.

HeadStart follows an innovative 2-9-1 model, incorporating two weeks of preparation, nine weeks of whole-class instrumental teaching and a final celebration performance. During the preparation phase, the LMS tutor worked closely with the school's SENCo, Music Subject Leader and class teacher to understand pupils' individual needs, identify children who would benefit from targeted pre-teach support and develop strategies that enabled every learner to participate confidently from the outset.

The impact was remarkable. Every pupil remained engaged throughout the project, with all children in the pre-teach intervention group making progress in line with their peers. Early relationship building, targeted support and a deeper understanding of individual needs fostered positive behaviours for learning, increased confidence and enabled meaningful musical progress across the whole class. Wednesday morning brass lessons quickly became a highlight of the week for pupils and staff alike.

The project concluded with a celebratory performance for families and peers, showcasing pupils' confidence, musicality and pride in their achievements. Staff confidence also grew significantly, strengthening the school's capacity to support future musical learning. The success of the pilot has provided a strong evidence base for the adoption of HeadStart WCET as Lincolnshire Music Service's county-wide approach from September 2026, ensuring every child is given the very best start to their musical journey.



See the case study, here

Case Study 03: Broadening Musical Horizons

[Click to
Book Here](#)

The Double Reed Project A Student's Perspective

"I really enjoyed taking part in the Double Reed Project and learning to play the bassoon. Before joining the project, I knew next to nothing about the bassoon, so I was excited to try it out.

I enjoy musical things as I play the piano, and when I first played the bassoon, I was shown how different instruments can be. I was also surprised by how many sounds can come out of one note because the reed requires the correct breathing techniques, as well as some notes needing tonguing, which was all new to me, making the experience more

difficult but also more rewarding. I was taught most of the C major scale and a few songs, which surprised me because I had made a lot of progress in quite a short time.

I think this project is a fantastic initiative because it introduces students like me to instruments that they might not have otherwise had the chance to play. I would recommend it to other students who want to try out something different. Thank you to our teacher and the Music Service for making the lessons enjoyable."

Musician in Residence Day A School's Perspective

"Our Year 7 students had an amazing day working with Mr Chambers from Lincolnshire Music Service. It was great to see all the students fully engrossed in learning about the culture of Taiko drumming. The workshops were exceptionally well structured, introducing increasingly complex rhythms, performance techniques and even a little Japanese language. Students remained fully engaged throughout the day and particularly enjoyed the opportunity to perform on the drums themselves. Many commented on how much they enjoyed learning about different cultures through music and experiencing instruments they would not normally encounter."

Case Study 04: Performance and Cultural Experiences

Playground Proms

Playground Proms is a unique Lincolnshire Music Service programme that brings high-quality live musical performances directly into schools, giving children the opportunity to experience professional musicians and a wide range of musical styles in an engaging and accessible way.

The programme aims to inspire a love of music, broaden cultural experiences, and introduce pupils to instruments and performances they may not otherwise encounter. This year, pupils at Lincoln Priory Witham Academy Primary enjoyed an unforgettable performance from Graffiti Classics.

**Head of Music at
Priory Witham Academy, said:**

“Graffiti Classics visited our school in June and were outstanding. The event was engaging and entertaining and had a huge impact on both pupils and staff. It is impossible to exaggerate just how much fun was had – from a string quartet prancing around in tutus to doing the splits with a cello – the cultural capital imparted on our children was invaluable.”

Pupil comments included:

“I found it interesting when I learnt about how the instruments sounded and the different types of instruments.”

“It made us like classical music.”

“It was fascinating because as they played more it became even more interesting and inspired me to want to be a musician when I am older.”

See the case study, [here](#)

Case Study 05:

Ensemble Opportunities

Giant Orchestra Day: A School's Perspective

"It is that time of year again when we do the amazing Carre's Grammar School Giant Orchestra Day once again. It is a fabulous event to come to every year."

There are many aspects in which musicians find good about the day. There are many good things about the day like the idea of playing in a full on scale orchestra with about 100-200 people. It may be that you want to meet some new people. You might want some new friends as well. You might want to challenge yourself by trying a new piece of music or trying a harder part. Well this event will be just for you.

You get to spend the day at Carre's Grammar School's Giant Orchestra Day learning how to play different pieces of music.

No matter what grade you are or how far on you are with your musical instrument, there is a place for you at this event. Over the years, I have progressed massively at this event. I have progressed all the way from the bottom part on the Violin to the very top part in just the space of 3 years.

At first, it seemed quite scary, but afterwards it was one of the best events in music of the year. Over the years, I have enjoyed the company of the other musicians and enjoyed setting up for the day at my school. This year, I am looking forward to playing in the orchestra with all the people who we had in the past and all the new people who will hopefully be able to join us. It will be a fun experience and I get to learn some more new music all over again. So, no matter what, this place will always be a fun day for everyone who wants to attend."



Case Study 06:

County Groups and Progression

County Groups
Information

Em Brunt shares her experience of county groups, highlighting six successful years with the Wind Orchestra, memorable performances, the Derbyshire residential experience, lasting friendships and the inspiring atmosphere created by talented young musicians and dedicated staff.

I have really enjoyed my time in the county groups this year. I have always had a passion for playing percussion, and to be in an environment with so many enthusiastic and talented musicians is a privilege. There is such a wonderful atmosphere during rehearsals, as everyone is so welcoming and driven to succeed in music.

This was my sixth year as a member of the Wind Orchestra, and it gets more exciting each time! I thoroughly enjoyed the residential trip to Derbyshire, working on both individual ability and full ensemble rehearsals. When it came to performing at St Wulfram's Church in Grantham, the group played incredibly well, and I was so proud to be a part of the evening. Finlandia by Sibelius was a particular favourite of mine, and a piece which I will never forget.

Aside from performing, spending time with my friends during the three days of the residential trip was so much fun. In our free time, we enjoyed playing rounders, competing in quizzes, and watching films. For me, county groups is about more than just sharing a passion for music with like-minded people, and I am already looking forward to my final year next year!

None of this would be possible without the wonderful Malcolm Duckles, who has organized all six of the residentials I have attended. We will miss him greatly. I would highly recommend participating in county groups to anyone interested, and I can only hope you have as much fun as I have!



Case Study 07: Community Music Making

See the case study, [here](#)

A member of Banovallum Brass Band reflected on a highly successful Brass Day attended by members of Banovallum Brass. Participants praised the organisation, inspirational leadership, supportive atmosphere and opportunities to develop confidence, musicianship and new friendships.

As leader of the Banovallum Brass Training Band I was pleased to accompany 17 players from our band to the 2026 LMS Brass Day, not just learners, but a number of Senior Band players too.

The day was well organised and every member of Banovallum Brass who attended told me they'd thoroughly enjoyed the day. A highlight was the inspirational leading of

Mike Howley who led us through well-chosen music that was both challenging and achievable. LMS staff were on hand to encourage and support, and I was particularly impressed with the group of youngsters who formed a small group supported by LMS staff and who performed two pieces in the concert at the end of the day.

We came away with added enthusiasm, increased confidence and lots of new friends and contacts in other bands around the county. I have no doubt that we'll all be back if we are lucky enough to see the event put on in 2027.

'The LMS Brass Day was a life-affirming wonder to be part of. As a novice player I was nervous, but my worries were soon put to one side. The LMS staff were all so helpful.'

'Mike's approach and ethos was inspiring and has given me some amazing tips, tricks and ideas to take away.'

'It gave me the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and challenge myself. I walked away feeling more confident in my abilities and with a sense of achievement.'

Thank you for your Partnership!

As we reflect on another successful year, it is clear that music continues to play a vital role in the lives of children and young people across Lincolnshire. From first notes played in classrooms to performances in large ensembles, every experience featured in this report demonstrates the power of music to inspire confidence, build resilience, develop friendships, and create lasting memories.

Lincolnshire Music Service remains committed to ensuring that every child has access to high-quality musical opportunities, regardless of background or experience. The achievements highlighted throughout this report are a testament to the enthusiasm of our pupils, the support of schools and families, and the dedication of our tutors, partners, and staff.



Jen Mckie
Head of Lincolnshire
Music Service

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to another exceptional year of music-making across the county. We look forward to building on these successes and continuing to inspire the next generation of musicians throughout 2026–27 and beyond.

Together, we are creating a musical Lincolnshire where every child has the opportunity to learn, perform, create, and thrive.