

Internal Quality Assurance Report 2024

Reporting Period: Sep-Dec 2024

Prepared by: Scott Ballam - Director

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1. Introduction

Fast Forward Music is committed to continuous improvement in the quality of our provision, ensuring we provide a high-quality learning environment that meets the needs of our students. Over the past year, we have undertaken significant improvements in key areas including curriculum development, staff training, student support, safeguarding, and facilities enhancements.

This Internal Quality Assurance Report highlights actions taken, impact measured, and future steps to further enhance our provision.

2. Improvements in Curriculum & Teaching

What We Have Done:

- ✓ **Expanded Our Curriculum:** We have a renewed focus on personal development. Too many students reach our provision who are potentially last strike students, that are close to being left behind. These students have environmental factors along with learning struggles that are being overlooked due to behavioural issues. These are all linked - our goal is to help them find confidence both in and out of education to overcome these factors.
- ✓ **Project-Based Learning (PBL):** Implemented PBL days, allowing students to work on real-world projects, such as music video production, live performance events, and industry networking.
- ✓ **Maths & English Functional Skills:** Now integrated into our provision, ensuring students receive (have the option to) essential academic support alongside their creative studies.



Impact Measured:

Improved Student Engagement - Average of 18/40 In Personal Development.

Higher Attendance Rates – 65% of students have improved attendance after 1 month.

More Career-Focused Learning – Students showed more interest in music production and group project based learning such as nutrition than before PD was implemented.

3. Enhancements in Personal Development

What We Have Done:

- ✓ Launched the DIFR Programme: Helping students understand real-world issues through structured personal development sessions.
- ✓ Retracking Books & Class Dojo: Introduced new student tracking tools to monitor personal and academic progress.
- ✓ Mentorship & Wellbeing Support: Deputy DSL Joe Hockham has expanded 1-to-1 mentoring, focusing on mental health, confidence-building, and goal-setting.
- ✓ Reward System Expansion: New half-termly recognition awards, including Most Dedicated, Most Improved, and Most Creative students, linked to reward trips.

Impact Measured:

Reduction in behaviour incidents due to increased student support.

Increase in student participation in group activities and workshops.

Positive feedback from students and parents on the mentorship programme.

While these are all positives a restructure regarding mobile phones may cause setbacks in the Spring term.

4. Staff Training & Development

What We Have Done:

- ✓ Enhanced Safeguarding Training: Assign DSL and DDSL at Level 3 Safeguarding, KCSIE 2024, and Prevent Training.
- ✓ Provision Networking: Directors have attended Denewood / NTSCC networking events to focus on attendance, OFSTED compliance, LINK Co-Ordinators.
- ✓ Introduction of Structured Staff Meetings & Feedback Loops: Ensuring continuous professional dialogue around student progress, curriculum improvements, and safeguarding updates.

5. Facility & Equipment Upgrades

What We Have Done:

- ✓ Reading Corner: Investing in books and a dedicated reading corner to encourage students to read about life, personal development and music history.
- ✓ Breakout Room Improvements: Added PlayStation 5, and recreational games to support positive student downtime and mental wellbeing.
- ✓ Access to Sports & City Venues: Partnered with local sports facilities to offer students breakout sessions when available.

Impact Measured:

Increased student motivation and engagement in both academic and practical sessions.
Gradual improvement in student focus and behaviour due to structured downtime.
Stronger sense of community within the provision.

6. Safeguarding & Behaviour Management Enhancements

What We Have Done:

- ✓ Revised Safeguarding Policies: Fully aligned with KCSIE 2024 & Nottingham City Council standards.
- ✓ Implemented a Reintegration System: Making incidents easier to realign with our code of conduct.
- ✓ New Anti-Bullying Strategies: Expanded student voice activities, ensuring students feel safe and supported at all times.
- ✓ Attendance & Behaviour Monitoring: Strengthened tracking systems to reduce absenteeism and disengagement.

7. Future Improvement Plan (Next 12 Months)

Expand Curriculum – Introduce Level 2 RSL qualifications to provide more progression routes.

Increase Industry Links – Build stronger relationships with creative professionals for student mentoring and industry placements.

Enhance Parent Engagement – Host parent workshops and progress meetings to improve home-school connections.

Further Improve Attendance – Introduce new engagement strategies for persistent absenteeism.

Develop New Funding Streams – Seek external grants to expand student opportunities and resources. Such as FE funding and or council sport placement funding.



8. Conclusion

Fast Forward Music has made significant strides in curriculum quality, student support, safeguarding, and staff development over the past year. These improvements have directly contributed to better student outcomes, increased engagement, and a more structured, career-focused learning pathway.

We remain committed to continuous quality improvement, ensuring that our students leave with the skills, confidence, and qualifications they need for a successful future in the creative industries.

For further information or feedback on this **Quality Assurance Report**, please contact:
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