

09 October 2026

Composing to Pictures

A project of musical creativity throughout the Spring Term

Composing to Pictures is a creative project that encourages students to explore the relationship between art and music, using selected artworks as inspiration for their own musical compositions.

The project begins with a visit to The New Art Gallery Walsall (NAGW), where students will take part in two sessions. In one session, students will explore a selection of artworks chosen specifically for the project, working with a gallery expert to discover the ideas, themes and techniques behind them. In the other, students will take part in a practical composing workshop led by Walsall Music Educator Nick Dewhurst, exploring musical ideas and techniques that can be used to respond creatively to visual art.

Both sessions run concurrently, with groups swapping halfway through the visit, meaning students may begin with either the gallery session or the composing workshop. By the end of the visit, all students will have experienced both activities, providing them with the artistic and musical inspiration needed to begin creating their own compositions.

Over the following weeks, students and staff will develop their own pieces of music inspired by the selected artworks, putting into practice the skills and approaches introduced through the project and staff CPD.

After February half term & subject to availability, Nick will arrange a visit to each participating school to hear how the compositions are developing. Students will receive constructive feedback, guidance and ideas to help them refine and progress their work.

The project culminates in a video presentation, showcasing the students' compositions on the Walsall Music YouTube channel and shared with all participating schools, providing an opportunity to celebrate and experience the creative work produced across the project.

For a detailed overview of each stage, please see the project timeline on the following page.

Composing to Pictures is suitable for students in KS2, KS3, KS4 and KS5.

Cost

The project is heavily subsidised by The New Art Gallery Walsall and Walsall Music, enabling us to offer it to schools for a contribution of just £100 per class. Payment of the contribution will confirm your school's place on the project. Please note that participating schools are responsible for arranging and covering the cost of transport to and from The New Art Gallery Walsall.

Brief Overview & Timeline

Mon 11th Jan: Staff CPD 'Composer's Toolbox'

From 1-4pm, Walsall Music Educator Nick Dewhurst will run a practical staff CPD session at the Walsall Arena and Art Centre, which will explore the composition project in more detail, showing staff tips and tricks as to how to lead the project in schools.

w/b Mon 18th Jan: Start Project in School

Teachers should make classes aware of the project, start to discuss how it's going to work, & how you're going to compose. Start to study the Artworks (digital images will be provided prior to NAGW visits) and even make a start on composing based on what was learnt at the CPD session.

Thurs 28th/Fri 29th Jan: School visits to the New Art Gallery Walsall

On each of the given dates there is a 10am and 12.30pm visit available (with some flexibility for coach arrangements). The visit lasts two hours and comprises of a 1-hour tour of the New Art Gallery Walsall, and a 1-hour composition workshop. It will be possible to book either time slot for 2 classes (we run the workshops simultaneously and swap over after an hour).

w/b Mon 1st/Mon 8th Feb: Composing in Schools

Students create their compositions in school using the tools and processes they've learnt during the composition workshop at the NAGW. Teaching staff will be able to support students using the resources and knowledge learnt at the staff CPD session.

w/b Mon 1st/Mon 8th Mar: School Visits from Walsall Music

Nick Dewhurst will arrange to visit schools in this week to see how the compositions are progressing. These sessions will last 1-hour and will be a chance for Nick to give feedback and help guide the students on the next steps of their compositions. This is subject to both schools' and Nick's availability.

w/b Mon 8th/Mon 15th Mar: Refining Compositions in Schools

Students refine the final details of their compositions and get ready to record or present them.

w/b Mon 15th Mar: Recording and Submitting Student Compositions

Schools must submit videos/photos & audio, accompanied by scores, which will be used in the final YouTube video presentation of the project. The deadline is **Friday 19th March** as the video will be edited in the following week. Please complete the attached photo/video permissions form for the project.

Thursday 25th Mar: Final video presentation premieres on Walsall Music's YouTube Channel

A video will be published on Walsall Music's YouTube channel which showcases the compositions from the project this year. A link will be sent to schools for all students and staff involved with the process to enjoy seeing their work from the project.

How to participate in the project

Please complete the attached booking form, and return via email to music@walsall.gov.uk



Walsall Council



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Composing to Pictures 2027 Booking Form

School		
Name of teacher leading project in school		
Job Title/Role		
Contact Email Address		
Contact Phone Number		
Number of Classes (Max circa 30 children per class)	E.g. 1 or 2	
Number of Students participating	E.g. 30 or 60	
Year group		
Please specify your preferred date and session. The available dates are Thursday 28th or Friday 29th January. We can accommodate two classes at each slot.		
My preferred date is		10am or 12.30pm?
Please offer a 2 nd date in the event your preferred choice is already taken		
My 2 nd choice is		10am or 12.30pm?

Cost

This project is heavily subsidised by the New Art Gallery Walsall and Walsall Music Education Service. We kindly ask schools to pay a £100 contribution **per class** towards the project, which will then confirm the booking onto the project. Please advise a PO number and your school will be invoiced.

Purchase Order Number.....

Travel Arrangements

Schools will need to arrange their own transport to and from the New Art Gallery Walsall Visit. Please make sure this is arranged well in advance of the day.

Deadline for Entry

The deadline for entering the project this year is **Friday 6th November 2026**. Once all entries have been received and processed, we'll be able to notify you of the session you've been allocated. We should be able to send you this information in the first two weeks of December, so you can make necessary travel arrangements for January's visit to the NAGW.

Permissions Form

For Composing to Pictures Recordings Spring 2027

School Name.....

Project Lead Teacher Name.....

To capture and present the 2027 Composing to Pictures Project, photos, videos, and audio recording will need to take place in school. Schools must submit these recordings to Walsall Music securely (for instance using a direct secure link via OneDrive). Walsall Music will then process & edit these recordings, which will then be published publicly online on the Walsall Music's YouTube channel. Please note, footage will be securely stored and may be kept indefinitely for both future promotions and archive purposes.

DECLARATION

I understand that photographs, videos & audio will be taken during the recording process, and that the final results of these photos/videos & audio will be publicly available to view on the Walsall Music's YouTube Channel.

☐

It is my responsibility to gain parental permission for pupils to be photographed or filmed.

☐

I hereby confirm that I have obtained permission from the parents/guardians of all the children who are being photographed/videoed/recorded via audio in Composing to Pictures.

☐

I confirm that the parents/guardians of the children involved understand that photographs or recordings may be used on the Walsall Music YouTube channel and website, and possibly also on other Walsall Music social media platforms such as X, Facebook and Instagram.

☐

I understand that once the final video presentation is online, Walsall Music cannot prevent unauthorised downloading.

☐

In the rare circumstance that a pupil may not be able to be filmed, photographed or recorded, but wishes to take part, this information must be shared with WALSALL MUSIC prior to recording, and Walsall Music to have given written understanding that they have received this information. In this case, the lead teacher must then work with Walsall Music to mitigate occurrences of filming and photographing happening with that pupil.

☐

Should any school ask for retrospective withdrawal or amendment of photos or other media footage an administrative fee may apply, the amount of which will vary in accordance with the nature of the request.

Sign here

Date

Name.....

Job Role.....