

Variation on a well-known theme

Hampshire County Council's Music Service has been instrumental in developing a new national website for secondary music teachers.

Hampshire Music service and Hampshire's Web Services team were contracted by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to create the new website. It will provide teachers with comprehensive guidance to ensure that secondary pupils across the country continue to benefit from high quality learning opportunities in music. The site was launched on 25 April and can be accessed at www.ks3music.org.uk.

Secondary music teachers will already be familiar with the Secondary National Strategy's DVD 'KS3 music: a professional development programme'. The new website is an updated web-based version of that resource and, like the original DVD, it is designed to help teachers improve the quality of Key Stage 3 music.

It therefore offers a complete professional development programme with a series of six training units, supporting resources and examples of effective practice. Everything has been designed to enhance the process of professional development, so while there are lots of resources to support work in the classroom, all the materials have also been designed to help teachers review and refine their practice.

The website offers three new and distinctive features from the original DVD:

- it provides easier access for teachers;
- there are more flexible routes through the materials;
- and the complete programme has been updated to reflect and promote the new requirements of the revised secondary National Curriculum for 2008.

Created by Hampshire County Council staff with funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the site has been developed in association with the National Association of Music Educators (NAME) and the Secondary National Strategy.

Commenting on the new website Richard Howlett, Head of Hampshire County Council's Music Service, said: "We are delighted to have been involved in creating a resource that will support secondary music teachers as they continue to find the best ways of helping young people engage with, and learn about, music. We already know that the materials can make a significant difference to the quality of music at Key Stage 3 – having everything on the web will mean that even more teachers and pupils can benefit."

Later in the year it is anticipated that the site will become part of an innovative new portal called Teaching Music. Funded by the Teacher Development Agency and managed by NAME and the Music Education Council, the portal is being designed to help all teachers improve their knowledge, understanding and skills in music education.