



Music Technology

A Level

Music can lift our mood, help us relax, enable us to work as a team and keep us on the edge of our seats. Music is a wonderful mix of artistry, technique and creativity in myriad different styles. This course is designed for students who enjoy music and want to develop their skills in performing, composing, listening and analysing.

Course Overview

Three Areas of Study underpin the whole specification, encouraging both breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding. In addition, within individual components, they provide a contextual focus for students' practical and theoretical work.

Area of Study 1: Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes. Students will use technology to explore a range of techniques for capturing, editing and manipulating sound which will help them understand the impact of music technology on creative processes in the studio. They will then produce a completed mix.

Area of Study 2: Principles of sound and audio technology. Students will use technology to explore a range of techniques for developing ideas. They will then turn their ideas into completed technology-based compositions. Students should develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements and musical language, and apply these, where appropriate, to their own technology-based compositions.

Area of Study 3: The development of recording and production technology. This component gives students the opportunity to identify, analyse and evaluate a range of creative music production techniques, as applied to the unfamiliar commercial recordings supplied in the examination. As well as identifying effects and their associated parameter settings, students will explain the principles behind the choice of the effects heard on each recording, and their sonic character, in a series of written responses.

How will I learn?

This course involves a unique combination of academic study and practical activity. Students learn through a series of lectures, workshops, master-classes by visiting professionals and attendance at live performances.

Where can I go after the course?

Careers: Broadcasting; Producing; Underwriting; Publishing; Arts Management.

Further Education: Music schools or a range of Performing Arts courses at degree level.

Entry Requirements

Standard 6th Form entry requirements. It is preferred that students have a minimum of a GCSE grade 6 or BTEC Merit at Level 2 in this or a related subject.

Assessment at the end of Year 2

Component 1: Recording Non-examined assessment: externally assessed 20% of the qualification.

Component 2: Technology-based composition Non-examined assessment: externally assessed 20% of the qualification.

Component 3: Listening and analysing
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
25% of the qualification.

Component 4: Producing and analysing
Written/practical examination: 2 hours 15 minutes
35% of the qualification.