

Music Technology A Level

Areas of Study

1. Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
2. Principles of sound and audio technology
3. The development of recording and production technology

Components

Component 1 – Recording

AOS 1

Component 2 – Technology based composition

AOS 1

Component 3 – Listening and Analysing

AOS 1, AOS 2, AOS 3

Component 4 – Producing and Analysing

AOS1, AOS 2

All components are externally assessed.

Components 1 and 2 are coursework based

Components 3 and 4 are exams

All elements of sound capture, creation, manipulation, reinforcement, processing and mastering are covered by the teaching of this course as well as fundamental composition and arrangement skills. The 2 year structure allows lots of scope for exploration and practising of the techniques during year 12 that are required to fulfil the year 13 tasks

Technically, students will learn synthesis and sampling techniques, acoustic capture techniques for both recording and live sound situations, production skills, analogue to digital conversion systems and critical listening and analysis skills

Musically, students will develop composition and arrangement ability covering structure, tonality, harmony, texture, timbre and rhythm as well as developing their analytical and critical listening skills

How will the 2 years work?

Year 12

September through to October half term of Year 12 will be primarily based within the computer room, learning how to navigate and use the software. This will be done through two mini composition tasks, one based on synthesis and the other based on sampling. Classroom lessons will help support the theories of these two areas.

October through to Christmas will be spent focussing on capture and production techniques. Students will be able to book the recording space and start to develop a portfolio of recording skills. Students will also be provided with a raw

recording to learn and implement production skills and techniques. Ongoing theory development.

January through to Easter will be focussed on putting all learnt skills into practice with the 'Spring Composition'. This piece of work will require students to show their synthesis, sampling, capture and production skills and will be assessed against the Edexcel mark scheme. Listening and analysing skills will be further developed to increase confidence for the critical listening and production exams, for which there will be a mock in June.

Easter through to the end of term will focus on exam preparation for the mock exams in June. 1st July sees the release of the close mic recording brief so we will then start to prep for those to start in September of Yr13.

Year 13

September through to December - Close mic sessions will begin for the component 1 paper. Component 2 brief is released on 1st September so work will start on the composition.

January through to May will be focussed on exam work for the 2 papers with free time used to finish and polish the 2 coursework tasks.

Summary

Year 12 is an 'experience' year to be spent exploring as many new systems and techniques associated with capture,

processing and sound design as possible. No exam board assessment within this year, leads to a stress-free environment for students to fully immerse themselves in the world of music production and recording.

Year 13 is the 'business' year where all the of the skills and knowledge gained in yr12 are put into action on the 2 coursework tasks and the 2 exams. By this point, students should be confident in making judgements and decisions related to any element of production whether it be self-processed work or critical analysis.