Year 8 Options 2020

BTEC Music Technology

Examination Board: EDEXCEL
Course Specification: Level 2 First Award in Music

What is BTEC Music Technology all about?

Music Technology is a fantastic course for those who love to be practical.

Level 2 BTEC is equivalent to 1 GCSE (9-4 grade)

It doesn't matter whether you can play an instrument, or know anything about the subject yet, as long as you are creative and willing to explore new ways of doing things.

- 75% of the final qualification is gained through the practical demonstration of skills and production of coursework, which is internally assessed.
- 25% will be externally examined through a 1 hour exam which will be taken at the end of year 10 (and can be re-taken in year 11 if needed).

Course Structure:

The course is divided into 4 units as follows:

1. **The Music Industry**
   This unit gives learners the opportunity to explore the range of organisations in the music industry, and how they interact, as well as looking at the individual employment opportunities within some of those organisations. This is the one unit that is externally assessed, by Edexcel, through a 1 hour exam.

2. **Introducing Music Sequencing**
   During this unit students will develop the skills of using music production software packages, building towards producing a portfolio of music on Cubase.

3. **Introducing Music Recording**
   Students learn to use microphones, mixing desks and related recording equipment to produce high-quality recordings of several pieces of music in our state of the art studio. Then they learn about mixing and mastering.

4. **Managing a Music Product**
   This is a unit that enables students to work together in teams, to plan, develop and promote a musical product, such as an Online Music Channel, Podcast, CD Album or a Live Event.

3 Year Curriculum

Year 1 – Student will complete a foundation year developing practical skills using the recording studio, microphones and editing software. Working as a team they will produce an online music channel, an album and run a live event.

Year 2 – Unit 1 'The Music Industry' (exam prep and exam) & Unit 2 'Music Sequencing'

Year 3 – Unit 3 'Music Recording' and Unit 4 'Manage a Product'

What could I do next with BTEC Music Technology?

The Music Industry is a very wide field, encompassing an enormous number of different career paths, most of which are not that of the performing musician. Roles such as Producer, Studio Engineer, Studio Assistant, Arranger, Media Composer, DJ etc. all directly require the skills developed in Music Technology.

Other fields in creative subjects benefit from the skills developed during BTEC Music Technology and many Scientists find the course beneficial to their understanding of the physics of sound and acoustics.

However, the organisation and attention to detail that you will develop will stand you in good stead for almost anything; it really is a very versatile subject!