

A Level Music Technology Curriculum Plan



In Music Technology, our aims are for all students:

- To develop an **appreciation** of a wide variety of Music.
- To develop a **knowledge** of different recording techniques across the different eras of Music Technology.
- To **analyse** recordings and discuss the features evident.
- To develop a range of **practical skills** in recording, composing, sound production, editing, and mixing.

Sequencing and interleaving

- **Year 12**

- The course is introduced, practical skills are developed in the classroom and recording studio.
- The 5 Music Tech eras are covered, incorporating musical styles, important instruments and hardware, developments in recording and mixing, and FX and processes.
- Recording and composing coursework skills are introduced and developed.

- **Year 13**

- The recording and composing briefs are examined and started. These utilise practical skills covered from across the previous year.
- Knowledge covered in Year 12 is looked at again, with more emphasis on exam technique and preparation.

Homework, Assessment and Feedback

- **Homework**

At KS5 Music Technology homework is set once or twice a cycle. In Year 13, this may also depend on any NEA work that is ongoing.

Homework may take the form of independent research and note taking, flipped learning and presenting back in various ways, practise listening questions, essays, or practical tasks in school.

- **Assessment**

A range of assessment types can be found across the topics, from practical tasks in lessons with verbal feedback, essays and homework to consolidate knowledge with written feedback, independent NEA tasks, and flipped learning tasks with peer feedback. Once a term will be a more formal assessment, either as part of the assessment window on the calendar or in lesson.

Year 12	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topics and Skills	Direct to tape mono recording (1930-1963) Recording basics, mic placement and balance. Microphones and polar patterns. Vinyl and tape.	Early multitrack recording (1964-1969) Bouncing down, panning, managing spill. Speakers. DI boxes. Cables and connections.	Large scale multitrack recording (1969-1995) Double tracking/ADT, acoustic treatment, stereo recording, recording drums. Cassette tapes.	Digital recording (1980-present day) Sampling, synthesis. MIDI. Analogue/Digital conversion. CDs.	DAW (1996-present day) Sequencing and DAW, automation, mixing and mastering. Compressed file formats.	Revision for end of year exams: Component 3 Listening and Analysing, Component 4 Producing and Analysing. Component 1 Recording task – preparing and recording a song. Component 2 Composing task – technology based composition to a brief.
	Blues, Jazz, Rock and Roll. Acoustic and electric guitar, piano.	Rock. Bass guitar.	Metal, Punk, Soul, Disco and Funk, Reggae. Guitar pedals, analogue synths, mellotron, electric piano, Hammond organ.	Urban. Synthesisers, samplers, drum machines.	Commercial Pop, EDM. Soft synths.	
	Reverb (natural, echo chamber, spring, plate). Delay (tape, slapback).	Distortion (overdrive and distortion).	Delay (stereo, BBD). Modulation effects (chorus, flanger, phaser).	Dynamic processing (compression, noise gate, limiter). EQ (graphic, parametric). Auto-tune, pitchshifting.	Stereo widening. De-esser. Sends and buses. Vocoder. Amp modelling. Convolution reverb.	

Year 13	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topics and Skills recapped	Direct to tape mono recording (1930-1963) Recording, acoustic treatment, mics, reverb, delay, analogue formats.	Early multitrack recording (1964-1969) Bouncing down, panning, managing spill, speakers, DI, distortion.	Large scale multitrack recording (1969-1995) Double tracking/ADT, stereo recording, recording drums, chorus, flanger, phaser, EQ.	Digital recording (1980-present day) Sampling, synthesis, MIDI, analogue/digital conversion, dynamic processing.	DAW (1996-present day) Sequencing and DAW, automation, mixing and mastering, compressed file formats.	Revision
NEA work	Select and analyse chosen song for Component 1 – recording. Start to arrange. Investigate Component 2 – technology based composition briefs. Come up with initial ideas.	Complete Component 1 arrangement ready for recording track foundation. Initial responses for each brief, before narrowing down on specific choice.	Complete recording, and begin mixing process. Work on composition, submitting for regular verbal and written feedback.	Complete NEA for final feedback and improvements.	NEA submitted May 15 th .	

Year 13 is all about consolidating prior learning and developing knowledge and understanding of each Music Tech era and the skills involved. This links directly in to improving knowledge and answers in the exams: Component 3 Listening and Analysing, and Component 4 Producing and Analysing.

Practical skills from Year 12 and continued learning aid the completion of the NEA.