

Pearson A-Level Music Technology

Head of Department: Mrs. T. Brown

Department Information

The music department is located in a purpose built block. There are two large teaching rooms, 6 individual practice rooms and a recording studio. A further teaching room is located in the nearby history block, housing 14 PCs and 10 iMac computers. These run specialist music software (i.e. Sibelius and Logic Pro). Students have ample opportunities to learn about music technology as well as more traditional elements of the subject. The department runs a number of thriving extra curricular ensembles and puts on regular concerts.

Why study this course?

The study of music technology provides opportunities for students to develop their creativity and imagination alongside such skills as analysis, appraising and project management. Students will develop the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to compose, sequence, record, analyse and produce music in the modern music industry.

Aims of the course

A Level Music Technology introduces students to the principles and practices of audio recording, the creation and manipulation of different types of sounds and the incorporation of these principles into their own music.

Course outline

The course entails 4 separate units: two of these are practical based and two are externally examined.

Unit 1: Recording. (20%) Students record one song from a choice of 10 set by the exam board. They use production tools and techniques to capture, edit, process and mix the final recording.

Unit 2: Technology based composition (20%). Students create a piece of music lasting 3 minutes from a choice of 3 briefs set by the exam board. The piece must include synthesis, sampling, manipulation of sounds and creative effects.

Unit 3: Listening and analysing (25%). A written exam consisting of 6 questions which are based on unfamiliar commercial recordings. At least one question will be a comparison of two unfamiliar pieces and another will be an essay question.

Unit 4: Producing and Analysing (35%). Students will correct and mix a series of given audio material and MIDI data in order to create a final mix. They will also be asked to write a response to an extended essay question.

How am I assessed?

Coursework and final examination

Where does this course lead?

A level Music Technology can lead to undergraduate study of Music Technology, Sound Technology, Sound Engineering or other related subjects.