

MUSIC

Exam Board: Pearson (BTEC)

Assessment method

75% Practical Work, 25% Written Examination

Exam length

1 hour

Breakdown of units

Music BTEC Level 2 is directly comparable to a GCSE qualification but has the added benefit of using vocational briefs and industry linked content, resulting in a wide range of musical skills including performance, composition, recording, sequencing and marketing a musical product. The majority of the units are internally assessed before being externally moderated, with an externally assessed written exam on the music industry (this exam has two sittings, the first in January and the second in May). The course is broad in scope, with an enjoyable mix of practical and theoretical elements. As there is more time for the subject each week, you will find that you have the time to develop your ideas in much greater depth, and your own style will start to emerge.

Students choose two of the following options:

Performing - Students are required to document their progress towards the successful completion of a musical performance, which will be in the format of an audition for a specialist music course at further education level. They record their practice, and keep a journal that gives context and shows an awareness of critically reflective practice.

Composing - Students are given a selection of stimuli, including visual sources such as advertisements and film footage, to create a musical backdrop to a given brief. This can be instrument or technology based, making use of the iMacs and a selection of equipment available at the students' disposal.

Recording - Students will plan, record and mix a piece of music of their choice either onsite or using a professional recording facility subject to availability. They will liaise with musicians and technical support staff, before creating a final product of an industry standard.

Sequencing - Students will reverse engineer a piece of music before recreating it using a Digital Audio Workstation, before presenting their considered creative process to justify their choices and production methodology.

Live Sound - Students will apply their theoretical knowledge of sound in a live performance environment, operating live sound equipment at a public event using a selection of industry standard resources and personnel.

These options are accompanied by two compulsory units:

Students will plan and execute a commercial music release in an appropriate format, making use of the marketing and industry content that will be taught throughout the course. This content will also be assessed separately with a formal assessment on the music industry that can be sat at several points across the course.

Overlap with other subjects: Drama, Physics, ICT, Business and Economics.

Lower School Teaching Staff

Darren Taggart



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Programme of Study

<p>Autumn Term 1</p> <p>Introducing the Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will engage with various practical activities to develop their general music skills (incl. composing, performance, using Logic Pro computer software) in preparation for the year's work. 	<p>Autumn Term 2</p> <p>Exam Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students, through a variety of projects and topics, will focus their time in lessons to prepare for their upcoming written exams.
<p>Spring Term 3</p> <p>Coursework Portfolios</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students, through a variety of projects and topics, begin to develop and improve their coursework portfolios. 	<p>Spring Term 4</p> <p>Coursework Portfolios</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students, through a variety of projects and topics, will continue to develop and improve their coursework portfolios.
<p>Summer Term 5</p> <p>Industry and Marketing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will use their knowledge of the music industry to successfully market a musical product. 	<p>Summer Term 6</p> <p>Exam Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students, through a variety of projects and topics, will focus their time in lessons to preparing for their upcoming written exams.

