



# Music Technology *A LEVEL*

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

Contact: Mr M Harris

## Course Outline:

This qualification will support students in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music technology through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills. These include recording, technology-based composition, listening, analysing and producing. Students will be encouraged to engage with a wide range of music technology techniques and develop an understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of the use of music technology in the creation and production of music.

This qualification will also allow students to develop particular strengths and interests, encourage lifelong learning and provide access to higher education and university degree courses in music technology and music technology-related subjects, as well as music technology-related and other careers.

In 2019, we had a major upgrade to our department which included the acquisition of thirteen brand new iMacs as well as a Roland synthesizer and set of V-Drums. Since then, we have also purchased Logic Pro X for all of these computers, an industry-standard Rode condenser microphone, a professional studio desk, a set of AKG drum microphones, a studio drum kit, a mixing console and have converted one of our practice rooms into a state-of-the-art recording studio. This allows us to be in the perfect position to teach A Level Music Technology, with outstanding facilities.

The course is split into four components:

Component 1 – Recording (20%): Candidates demonstrate their ability to capture, edit, process and mix an audio recording using microphones and music software, by recording a cover of a famous pop song performed by other musicians.

Component 2 – Technology-based composition (20%): Candidates demonstrate their ability to create, edit, manipulate and structure sounds to produce a technology-based composition. Candidates compose one 3-minute piece.

Component 3 – Listening and analysing (25%): Candidates demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles.

Component 4 – Producing and analysing (35%): Candidates demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques.

## Assessment Framework:

- Component 1 (20%) – coursework, externally assessed at the end of Year 13.
- Component 2 (20%) – coursework, externally assessed at the end of Year 13.
- Component 3 (25%) – a 1 hour 30 minute listening exam, sat in the June of Year 13.
- Component 4 (35%) – a 2 hour 15 minute practical exam, sat in the June of Year 13.

## Course Entry Requirements:

Music GCSE: 6

Or equivalent experience in the field of music technology and/or experience with digital audio workstations.

A willingness to participate or support extracurricular music clubs, events and upper school production.

## Why Study A Level Music Technology?

It cannot be argued that Music Technology is becoming more and more relevant in today's society, with advances in technology happening on a daily basis.

It could also be said that these days, it is highly advantageous for even the most capable musician to have a good technical knowledge, in order to expand their performance and career opportunities beyond the traditional realm.

There are a huge array of career opportunities that extend from studying A Level Music Technology, and it is looked upon highly favourably on CVs, not just because of the vast musical skillset candidates develop but sometimes simply because of the IT skills obtained.

There are a number of highly-regarded institutions across the UK that offer outstanding higher education courses and degrees in Music Technology, all of which have very high graduate employment rates.