

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Post 16 Subject Overview

Name of Subject - Music Technology

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course?

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sound Engineering (603/1233/6)

Why should I study this course?

BTEC Level 3 Sound Engineering continues from the work you have completed in NCFE Music Technology, but takes your experience and skills to a much higher level. You will be assessed in Performing, Composing and Appraising.

The UK music industry helps drive economic growth by creating jobs and opportunities for young people. A 2018 UK music survey identified that the music industry supported more than 190,935 full-time jobs in the UK, of which 48,938 were in the music technology sector, including sound engineering. The music industry contributed £4.5 billion to the UK economy in 2018, which is an increase from the previous year of 6 per cent.

As post 16 members of the Music Department, we would expect you to take part in enrichment activities and support students, whilst also building your experience, by undertaking recording projects and live sound engineering within the department.

Who is suitable to study this course? -

If you are interested in Music and would like to work within the music industry, but do not necessarily want to be a performer. Or if you are a musician who wants to better understand the technological aspects of the industry, then this is the course for you. This is a very hands-on course with lots of opportunities to record and spend time in the recording studio on your projects.

Sound Engineering and Design is a key part of the music industry. Instead of performance, composition and music theory, it focuses on music production and the use of microphones and MIDI to record, edit and mix sound for a range of different media. There is no assessment for performance, although there will

be the opportunity to record your own performances if you wish to. A Level Music will fit well as an option alongside Btec Level 3 Sound Engineering as Music and Music Technology are very much interlinked in the industry today.

Of the 48,938 jobs in the music technology sector, there are a wide range of different roles that you can undertake. In addition to the recorded and live music opportunities, all forms of media for TV, Film and even the internet require sound recording and production skills. Example careers include:

- Record Producer
- Recording Engineer
- Mastering and Mix Engineer
- Production Music Writer
- TV Music Director
- Foley Artist for Film
- Sound Recordist for TV and Film
- Stage Manager
- Live Sound Technician
- Production Manager
- Teacher

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course?

NCFE Music Technology and GCSE Music

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course?

NCFE Music Technology with a Merit grade **or** GCSE Music with a grade 5.

How is the Course Delivered?

There will be a mix of practical lessons and theory, but we will prioritise hands-on experience in practice and real world opportunities wherever possible. The course is covered over 5 Units, one of which is externally assessed. The course gives you the skills necessary to record, edit, mix and master music from a range of genres. You will learn about the acoustics of sound and the frequency responses of microphones. Students will develop the skills to operate the recording studio and manage live sound for musical events.

- Unit 1 – Live Sound
- Unit 2 – Recording Studio Techniques
- Unit 6 – Digital Audio Workstation Production
- Unit 13 – Mixing and Mastering Techniques
- Unit 18 – Working and Developing as a Production Team

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Live Sound	Working and Developing as Production Team
Autumn 2	Recording Studio Techniques Live Sound Event	Working and Developing as Production Team Live Sound Event
Spring 1	Recording Studio Techniques Live Sound Event	Recording Studio Techniques Live Sound Event
Spring 2	Mixing and Mastering Techniques	Mixing and Mastering Techniques
Summer 1	DAW Production	DAW Production
Summer 2	Daw Production Live Sound Event	Daw Production Live Sound Event



How is the Course Assessed?

Students will work in groups and individually to create a portfolio or recordings and evidence their contribution towards live and recorded musical projects. Assessments will comprise short tasks and research projects, as well as large scale productions.

There is no written exam. The externally assessed unit is completed over a 15-hour period and the exam board sets one production task which is completed under controlled exam conditions on the computer.

The requirements of the qualification will mean that students develop transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by higher education and employers.

Each unit will be assessed and feedback will be given, Students will then have one opportunity to improve their work before submitting their project.

What is our Recommended Subject Reading list to Support your Study?

Sound on Sound magazine

Propellerheads website: <https://www.propellerheads.com/>

Steinberg website: <https://www.steinberg.net/en/home.html>