

# AS/A2 MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

It is recommended that students have studied GCSE music to Grade B and have some ability in reading music. A few students start the course without GCSE music and in these cases it is helpful to have practical ability as well as some understanding of theory.

## Examination board:

EDEXCEL

## Teachers:

J Bellfield, R McEwan

## Timetable organisation

The course is taught by two different members of the Music Department who cover the syllabus in 5 lessons per week. Lessons cover a mixture of theoretical and practical tasks. Students complete AS before moving onto A2.

## Main Syllabus areas

The course will allow opportunities for sequencing MIDI, sequencing audio, recording live instruments, producing CDs and composing using music technology. Students also build understanding of the technical processes and principles that underpin effective use of music technology through writing about them.

**AS:** in the first year the course comprises:

**Unit 1:** *Music Technology Portfolio 1* – production of an audio CD containing 3 tracks of work (sequenced realised performance, multi-track recording and creative sequenced arrangement) and a logbook.

**Unit 2:** *Listening and Analysing* – 1 hour 45 minute exam based around various styles of music.

**A2:** in the second year the course comprises:

**Unit 3:** *Music Technology Portfolio 2* – production of an audio CD containing 3 tracks of work (sequenced integrated performance, multi-track recording and composition) and a logbook.

**Unit 4:** *Analysing and Producing* – a 2 hour exam involving

## Main Syllabus area (cont..)

manipulating and correcting recorded music, commenting on technological processes and producing a stereo mix.

## Method of assessment

Externally assessed portfolios (65%) and practical examinations (35%).

## Qualities required

A knowledge of popular music styles as well as interest in western classical styles. Good skills in ICT and prior knowledge of Sibelius and Cubase programmes are an advantage as well as some theoretical knowledge. An interest in arranging, composing and sequencing are essential.

## Links with other subjects

Music technology complements other arts based subjects very well and also complements ICT. Music technology helps to build independence and communicative skills, both vital to effective Post 16 study.

## Career prospects

Graduates in music technology go on to work in recording studios, as sound engineers, as producers, in broadcasting and other roles within the music industry. Music Technology A Level is essential for those students intending to study the subject at Higher Education level or as part of a Creative Media or Sound Production course. It is also a good choice if you have a deep interest in music technology and/or ICT and require a complementary subject.

## Extension and enrichment opportunities

Performance and recording opportunities both within school and in the wider community; a wide selection of ensembles to work with in a recording capacity; College/University trips.