

Course Titles: BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice

Awarding Body: Pearson

Further information available from: Mr Reinikovas

The BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice, is for learners who want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by exploring and developing their musical skills and techniques, and by responding to a music industry brief as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The course will broaden the learners experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them. This Award complements the learning in GCSE programmes, by broadening experience and skills participation in different types of musical techniques for different musical styles. The Award gives learners the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills in a practical way through exploration and development of techniques and styles.

What will I study? - The course consists of three components that allow students opportunities to develop new and existing musical skills. Two of these units are internally assessed and externally moderated whilst the final unit is externally assessed.

Exploring Music Products – Each year, the music industry produces a wide range of products such as recordings, compositions, live performances, music for film, TV and computer games. Have you ever wondered how these products are created? In this component, you will develop your understanding of different types of music product and the techniques used to create them. You will explore how musical elements, technology and other resources are used in the performance, creation and production of music. You will also practically explore the key features of different genres of music and music theory and apply your knowledge and understanding to developing your own creative work.

Music Skills Development – As a performer, producer or creator in the music industry, you need to continually develop your skills and techniques in order to be successful and secure a regular flow of gigs and commissions. In this component, you will participate in workshops and classes where you will develop technical, practical, personal and professional skills and specialise in at least two of the following areas: music performance, creating original music, music production. Throughout your development, you will review your progress and consider how to make improvements. You will learn how musicians share their work and collaborate with others and will develop your own skills as a musician in how to use blogs, YouTube™, Soundcloud™ and other platforms to share your work and skills development with others.

Responding to a Commercial Music Brief – This component will allow you to work to your strengths and interests and apply the skills that you have learned throughout your course in a practical way. You will focus on a particular area of the music industry that excites and appeals to you and respond to a commercial music brief as a composer, performer or producer. You will begin by exploring the brief and investigating possible responses and ideas to meet the demands of the brief. Using relevant resources, skills and techniques you will then develop and refine musical material before presenting your final response. You will develop and present an original creation based on a piece from a given list and a style from a choice of four. You will then present this as a solo or group performance, an audio recording or a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) project. You will also consider how your skills and interests make you suitable for the specific music industry opportunity.

Is this Course for me? - An ability to perform on an instrument or sing is an essential requirement for this course as performing music is an integral part of the course. Enthusiasm for practical work is vital, as you will be expected to perform your music to an audience. A good understanding of music theory is also desirable but not essential. Ability to work independently and manage your work is also important. You will need to rehearse on your own or as part of an ensemble, as well as researching and providing written documentation as evidence. To succeed in this course, determination and hard work is needed. Students who enjoy performing and have the ability to express themselves creatively enjoy this subject immensely.