



CHARTERS

— SCHOOL —

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

What will you study during the course?

Music Technology engages students in several different areas of popular music including recording, mixing, analysis and composition. Great emphasis is put on practical experience and real-world scenarios for the students to explore. The students will explore the following units:

- Sound Recording
- Musical Knowledge
- Sequencing and Production

Unit 1: Sound Recording (40%)

This project will require the students to understand how to record live instruments correctly. Students will get the chance to use the recording studio at Charters to create a live audio recording of an existing song. The recording will consist of several instruments recorded in the studio using microphones. The recorded audio will need to be edited effectively, using EQ and the necessary effect processors to create a balanced product. For this unit, students will work in teams as well as individually to produce their final recording.

Unit 2: Musical Knowledge (20%)

This project will challenge the students to understand the makeup of different contemporary genres, before focussing on a style of their choice. Students will be asked to analyse the musical elements of their chosen genre, discussing the development and history of how their style came to be. Having analysed the musical and contextual features of their chosen style the students will choose two songs and make a comparative analysis.

Unit 3: Sequencing and Production (40%)

Students will be set a vocational scenario by the exam board in year 11. They will respond to this brief utilising all the skills built up in years 10 and 11; they will create their own chord sequences, melodies, drumbeats and original sounds. They will also use the full range of techniques available on the school's music tech software including EQ, effects, synthesis and sampling to create an original track. Once their project is complete, they will evaluate it and discuss its pros and cons.

How will the course be taught?

Each of the three units is practical and demands a high level of independent learning. The necessary skills are taught within lessons and then time is spent working on projects. Work is reviewed regularly within lessons and targets set to allow students to access the highest marks. Students will be expected to spend a reasonable amount of their own time working on the units outside of lessons.

How will your work be assessed?

The Sound Recording and Musical Knowledge unit are internally assessed and verified. The Sequencing and Production unit brief is set by RSL and is externally assessed and verified. The students will be assessed on the quality of their practical skills and their written or verbal responses to the assigned briefs.

Where can it lead?

RSL Music Technology is an ideal preparation for A-Level Music Technology and a career within the music and live events industries. It will improve your creative skills whilst enabling you to become a stronger independent learner that is highly valued at Sixth Form Colleges. The music industry is a big business and offers a huge range of opportunities in many different careers. Students will develop an awareness of popular music genres and styles; listening and composing skills; significant music technology proficiency and will be well equipped to pursue a career in the creative arts industry. The course also offers a wealth of transferable skills relevant to ongoing study as well as to future career development, including literacy, critical thinking, communication, time management and organisational skills.