

KS4 – BTEC Music

Year 10 BTEC Music Level 2 (Edexcel) begins with an introduction to composition and performance. Throughout KS3 students will have developed their skills in both areas and this course will have attracted a wide range of musical abilities in both composition and performance. In composition students will explore a variety of starting points for their compositional ideas using Ableton software, their own instruments and by working with other students. In their performance lessons, students will begin by developing their ability to perform effectively as part of a group through rehearsing and performing a variety of pieces chosen by the teacher. The repertoire chosen will depend on the students' capabilities and their chosen instruments (which includes the voice).

In the second half term, students will continue to work on their compositions by developing their initial starting points. At home, as homework, students will be selecting and rehearsing a solo piece ready for their baseline performance assessment before Christmas. However their main focus will be the planning of their Charity Fundraising concert which will take place in March. Roles will be allocated, meetings will be held, research will take place to ensure that everything is in place for the launch after Christmas. They will also develop their skills in creating a promotion pack for the event, posters, press release and merchandising ideas will be created for their first assessment in this unit.

After Christmas the students will launch their Fundraising concert which will involve holding auditions and managing the successful acts. Through this unit they will learn the different roles involved in the running of a live performance, the Health and Safety considerations and the responsibility of each member of the group to ensure a successful event in the Windmill theatre. Students will also work on ensemble pieces to be included in their concert. This will be their first opportunity during this course to perform in a public concert in the theatre. Their compositions will also be developed and extended ready for their first composition assessment after half term.

In March will be the fundraising concert run entirely by the group so this will be the focus of most lessons as well as rehearsing for their performances. The show will be followed by a full evaluation of the event, highlighting the successes and where they could have improved in the process. They will also submit their initial compositional ideas and their log book explaining the process behind their work and ideas.

After Easter and through to Summer, students will respond to feedback given and improve their skills in composition and performance. Solo and ensemble performances will demonstrate an increasing complexity in their standard and a greater understanding of their own instrument and its capabilities. Their composition will develop through extending and expanding their chosen ideas and their log book will allow them to demonstrate their understanding of the techniques used and the processes used. Reference is made to the Music Industry through links to performers, composers, recording, publishing and distribution.

The first term in Year 11, the focus is on the Music Industry unit. Through their work on the show in March of Year 10 and their understanding of performing and composing and how performers and composers fit within the Music Industry, students develop this understanding through the consideration of scenarios based on different aspects of the Music Industry. Students develop their ability to weigh up the pros and cons of certain decisions that need to be made by producer, composers, venue managers, artists etc in preparation for their exam in January of Year 11.

In composition lessons, students will focus on one of their ideas and develop this into a fully developed composition presented either using Ableton or on live instruments / voices.

After Christmas students will revisit their performance skills and complete stage three of their development as performers. They will set themselves targets for this term based on feedback received from their previous performances and in order to reach their own goals. Their final assessments will be completed before Easter. This term will also see the final stages of their compositions where they will complete the final adjustments to their composition portfolio based on feedback given.

After Easter the students will complete their performance and composition evaluations and final touches to their log books before they go on study leave.