
Course highlights:

The BTEC Level 2 First Award in Music allows students to engage with the music industry and develop a range of relevant practical and technical skills. Students explore music product development and events management and apply knowledge in new, practical industry-related contexts. The course is aimed at any student who wants to find out more about the music industry.

Learning styles used:

The course will suit students who enjoy learning in a variety of different ways. Both practical, hands on based tasks as well as written / research based activities are undertaken, including how to sequence, compose and record using Apple iMac technology, namely Garageband, Logic Pro 9 and Sibelius 6 software packages.

How is it assessed?

There are two mandatory units, covering the fundamental knowledge, skills and understanding required for the music sector. These are:

Unit 1: The Music Industry

Unit 2: Managing a music product

Two further units are then selected and these include; Introducing Live Sound, Introducing Music Composition, Introducing Music Performance, Introducing Music Recording and Introducing Music Sequencing.

Students will carry out assignments / tasks throughout the course. Teachers will mark these and give feedback. For Unit 1, work is submitted to the exam board for external assessment.

Other Information:

Learning an instrument is strongly encouraged at the start of the course and lessons are offered by a team of visiting peripatetic instrumental teachers from Services for Education (Birmingham Music Service). We currently provide drum kit, acoustic and electric guitar, keyboard/piano, vocal, strings, brass and woodwind tuition. These are partly subsidised by the Academy to encourage full and active participation.

Sixth form pathways & careers available from this course:

The BTEC First Award in Music leads directly onto Post-16 vocational music courses. Careers in the music industry are varied and include performers, composers, technicians and management roles.

Employability Skills:

The multi-disciplinary skills taught are much sought after by employers and music graduates make up a large proportion of many key sectors including finance, law and consultancy.

A range of skills are developed during the course, including working as a team (in musical ensembles), the application of IT (music software) and communication and literacy (researching and presenting information). Regular opportunities are also created for reflection (self and peer assessment of work).

Course combinations:

Any other subject would link well with this course, but particularly the Creativity & Design Key Stage 4 subjects.

Please see Mr Davie (E1) or Mrs Sharratt (E2) to discuss this course further.