
Course highlights:

The BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice is for learners interested in taking a hands-on course alongside their GCSE's and will offer them an insight into what it is like to work in the Music sector – a vibrant, exciting and competitive industry that offers many different and exciting new work opportunities, whether in composing, performing or producing music. The course allows learners to explore the sector and to learn and try out new skills, techniques and styles, allowing them to make an informed decision about their future learning and career.

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.

How is it assessed?

There are three components:

Component 1 (30%): Exploring Music Products and Styles. Learners will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles.

Component 2 (30%): Music Skills Development. Learners will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement.

Component 3 (40%): Responding to a Music Brief. Learners will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given music brief.

Other Information:

There is the expectation that students will start the course with instrumental / vocal skills. Instrumental lessons are offered by a team of visiting peripatetic 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 Tech Award in Music Practice 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.