

RMGS

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

A LEVEL

What are the aims of the course?

To introduce students to the skills and knowledge needed to work in the Music Technology and creative arts industries. Students will learn to use the technology in a musical and creative way.

What does it involve?

- **Recording** – one recording chosen from a list of 10 possible songs provided by Edexcel. Recorded using Cubase in the school's recording studio.
- **Technology-based composition** – one composition based on one of three briefs set by the exam board. Sequenced using Cubase, requiring students to synthesize their own sounds, manipulate audio, and make creative use of effects.
- **Listening and Analysing** – learning about recording and production techniques and principles
- **Producing and Analysing** – knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing, and production techniques, and how to apply these techniques to audio provided by the exam board. The principles of sound and audio technology.

Students will have to work independently and manage their own time.

How is it assessed?

- **Recording** – An audio file of the final recording is submitted, alongside a logbook discussing the recording process and creative decisions made. 20% of the qualification.
- **Technology-based composition** – An audio file of the final composition, alongside a logbook detailing the sound design, synthesis, sampling, and creative effects plus the compositional process. 20% of the qualification.
- **Listening and Analysing** – an exam lasting 1 hour 30 minutes. Questions will be based on commercially available recordings, and will require students to discuss aspects of recording, production, and musical context. Each student will have their own CD to listen to the audio as many times as they require during the exam. 25% of the qualification.
- **Producing and Analysing** – an exam lasting 2 hours 15 minutes, plus time to set up. Students will use Cubase to complete practical tasks, alongside written responses to questions. 35% of the qualification.

Are there any specific entry requirements?

Students need to have at least a B grade in GCSE Music. Students should also have a working knowledge of music theory (ABRSM grade 4) and it would be an advantage to have keyboard or piano skills. B grades, or level 6 if a 9-1 GCSE, in both Physics and Maths are also essential. Students who have not taken Music GCSE may still be able to cope with the academic and musical rigors of the course, but they will be expected to demonstrate appropriate levels of musical and technical skill and understanding to department staff before being accepted on to the course.

Why is it a useful qualification?

The course develops musical, technical, and teamwork skills, and provides access to music-related careers such as sound engineering and working in film or television. It also provides a firm foundation for students wishing to study Music or Music Technology at university. It will complement other creative and scientific subjects.

