TALLIS
PERFORMING ARTS
DANCE • DRAMA • MUSIC

A LEVEL
Music Technology

Are you?

- Keen to create and record music?
- Interested about the way popular musical style has evolved?
- Someone who enjoys listening to music?
- Fascinated to learn about the development of music technology?

If yes, then the A Level Music Technology course is for you!

Where else can you experiment with recording equipment and computer technology, arrange and compose music, and learn about popular music, from rock 'n' roll to reggae, heavy rock to hip hop?

Music technology covers all aspects of creative studio work including stereo ambient recording, multi-track recording, electro-acoustic music, arranging, studio engineering, producing and composition for film.

The aim of the department is to foster creativity and skill in the use of the latest technology and to equip pupils with up-to-date knowledge for their future work in the studio-music environment.

What could I do next?

The possibilities are endless. Music will enable you to demonstrate many skills which employers, colleges and universities will be looking for.

Our Tallis Performing Arts Progression officer is on hand to offer information and advice on progression to Music Conservatoires, Universities, and career opportunities.

What does the course consist of?

If you choose to study A Level Music Technology, you will follow the Edexcel specification.

The course covers three areas of study:

1: Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes

- The use of recording and mixing techniques to capture, edit and produce a recording.
- The use of sound creation and manipulation techniques to create, edit and structure a technology-based composition.
- The capture, arrangement of sounds and mixing and mastering techniques that have been used on a series of unfamiliar commercially available recordings.
- The use of sound creation and processing techniques to correct and mix a recording.

2: Principles of sound and audio technology

- The knowledge and understanding of the principles of sound and of audio technology in relation to unfamiliar commercially available recordings provided in the exam.
- The knowledge and understanding of the principles of sound and of audio technology in relation to theoretical and practical contexts provided in the exam.

3: The development of recording and production technology

- The knowledge and understanding of the history and development of recording and production technology from current digital technologies back to the birth of multitrack recording technologies and back to the mono, analogue recordings in the 1930s.

What will I do?

The Edexcel A Level Music Technology course consists of two externally-examined papers and two non-examined assessment components.

Component 1: Recording (20%)

Produce a multi-track recording chosen from a list of 10 songs provided, consisting of a minimum of five compulsory instruments and two additional instruments. The track must be between 3 and 3m30.

Component 2: Technology-based composition (20%)

Create one technology-based composition chosen from three briefs. Synthesis and sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects use must be included, and the composition must be 3 mins.

Component 3: Listening and Analysing (25%)

- 1h30 written examination testing your knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles, in the context of a series of unfamiliar commercial recordings supplied.

Application of knowledge related to all three areas of study:
- Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
- Principles of sound and audio technology
- The development of recording and production technology

Component 4: Producing and analysing (35%)

2h25 practical/written examination that will test your knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques, to be applied to unfamiliar materials provided.

Application of knowledge related to two of the areas of study:
- Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
- Principles of sound and audio technology

Progression

Studying Music Technology offers a variety of career paths. There are many employment opportunities including: composing for film, TV and games, live sound, studio engineering, music management and events, solo artist, session musician and song-writer.

Further Study opportunities include degree courses in all areas of Music Technology, for example:

- London College of Creative Media
- SAE Institute
- Kingston University London
- Surrey University Tonmeister course.
- Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts