BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED DIPLOMA

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Student Achievement 2016

*Pass rate: 100% • D*D*-DM Grades: 91%*

This course is designed for students who have a genuine interest in recording, performing and composing in a range of musical styles, particularly popular music and jazz. During the course you will develop a thorough working knowledge of the techniques and processes involved in music production and composition through the study and use of digital / analogue recording, sequencing and mixing equipment. The course will provide you with the practical skills and theoretical knowledge to enable you to work professionally or progress to Higher Education. The recording of acoustic and electronic musical instruments is a key component to the course and this work is underpinned with traditional musical theory and analysis. Studying sequencing techniques will include learning about arrangement, sampling and synthesis tools. Editing, mixing and mastering techniques are also covered, allowing students to gain industry standard skills.

Level: Level 3

Specific Course Entry Requirements:
College entry to include GCSE Music minimum Grade C, instrument Grade 5, music theory grade 5 or by audition (please refer to the Entry Requirements section page 24 for further details). Although you do not need to have achieved a music theory qualification, we do expect your willingness to develop your music theory knowledge through our weekly enrichment programme.

What will I study?
You will study a wide range of specialist units throughout the course. This includes an intensive study of the recording studio and the processes involved in creating a music product, focusing upon the equipment needed, appropriate microphone technique, correct studio procedures, mixing and mastering techniques. Another sizable part of the course investigates the use of sequencing software and will develop your ability to sequence both MIDI and audio material. This is a core skill that is essential to any music technician and musician who makes use of technology. You will look at the use of DAW software to aid in music composition, production, arrangement and performance through specific sequencing techniques. The course also investigates live sound techniques, creative use of sampling and synthesis, historical developments within the industry and the use of music technology in current media. There will be some elements of traditional music composition, performance and theory built within the course.

All work in the department is completed using industry standard software (Logic Pro X, Mainstage, Ableton Live, Sibelius) on specialist Apple Mac computers. The department features two Apple Mac labs, two classroom spaces, a recording studio, 6 practice spaces and a theatre space for music performance.

How will I be assessed?
There are ten units in total that make up the course in Music Technology, each which are assessed through a range of practical and written assignments. Eight of the units are internally assessed through coursework activity and two are externally assessed through controlled assessment that will both take place in the usual classroom setting.

Where will this course lead me?
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma are valued by both employers and higher education institutions. Successful completion of this two-year course offers various routes for progression, including Higher Education opportunities within Music Technology, Music Production and Performance courses or advancement to specialist music colleges. Employment opportunities within the Music Technology/ Production industry include studio management, live and studio engineering/ production, music performance, music publishing, music journalism, product development, music therapy and much more. The music department offers extra curricular activities that allow students to begin building a portfolio of evidence that will give them a starting point upon completion of the course. We have ties with local businesses and community groups that will allow students to make contacts before they leave College; a number of our students already working alongside local theatres and performance/recording spaces.

Through our Maestro Programme, we work in partnership with many prestigious universities as well as the Royal Northern College of Music and Birmingham Conservatoire.

What support will I receive?
Work in class is largely practical based and your tutor will provide one to one support during these sessions alongside whole group delivery of the material. The apple mac suites will be made available to you within your study periods, break times and after the college day. In addition to this, individual tutorials can be arranged with your tutor as and when needed, at a time convenient to both you and your tutor.

What is the department like?

The new Performing Arts building is an open, vibrant and welcoming place to work. You will be surrounded by like-minded individuals and encouraged to make as much use of our Apple Mac suites, generous rehearsal spaces, practice rooms and recording studio. The communal area in the core of the building is a great place for social engagements as well as a place to catch up on work for your chosen subjects. There is always something taking place, be it our weekly lunchtime performance or extra music theory workshops; you will be welcomed into our community of musicians, music technicians, actors and dancers.

Enrichment opportunities

The department offers many enrichment opportunities including a weekly lunchtime concert, Grade 5 Music Theory Group, Singing Ensemble, Concert Band, Orchestration & Arrangement classes and specialist Music Technology enrichment.

In addition to our extensive range of departmental activities, students are invited to create their own ensembles and may be invited to join the College Ensemble for the annual College Musical where they will play for a range of professional standard shows. Further more, the department organises an annual residential, concert visits and trips to industry related venues (e.g. London O2 Arena Trip). Live sound management and stage management at a number of college productions includes the CAFOD Christmas Service, College Musical Productions, Rigfest, Summer Arts Festival, Music Recital Evening, weekly lunchtime performances and many more.

Head of Department

David Wall

Tutors

Mark Lane
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St John Rigby College

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St John Rigby College reserves the right to make changes including courses offered, course content and entry requirements at any time.