



BTEC Level 1/2 - Music FAQ

What is a BTEC?

It's a vocational course that combines both practical and academic skills to help develop yourself as a well rounded musician. BTEC stands for the Business and Technology Education Council. BTECs are specialist work-related qualifications. BTEC in Performing Arts is equivalent to GCSE level study.

Do I need to be able to play an instrument and read music?

In order to be successful with BTEC Music it would be an advantage to have some experience of playing an instrument previously, which can include the voice. However, a desire and commitment to learning an instrument will also be sufficient.

Does it matter if I am self-taught?

There are various methods to learning how to play instruments, including reading musical notation, chord sheets, youtube videos etc. As long as it works for you, there is no specific method which we require.

Do I need to be involved in a Music club outside of school?

No, as long as you have a love for the subject and are willing to work hard we can work with you to develop your skills. There are also lots of after school clubs/activities that are available to you. You may wish to join the school show or other activities to experience more performance opportunities. There are also plenty of performance opportunities with external groups in the local area.

Do I have to perform?

No you do not have to perform to an audience. You will be expected to record yourself performing.

Is there written work?

Yes, there are substantial written elements to each component however there is no final written examination.

What is Comp 1?

Component 1 'Exploring Music Products and Styles' is an internally assessed unit. During this component you will explore a range of styles. You will have the opportunity to actively create, produce and perform a range of styles whilst also developing your musical knowledge, understanding and skills. You will submit a Styles Portfolio and a Products Portfolio. This component has a mixture of both theory and practical elements.

What is Comp 2?

Component 2 'Music Skills Development' is an internally assessed unit. You will have the opportunity to further explore the professional skills required in the music industry. You will learn the skills required to chart your progress throughout the component. Reflecting upon, plan and capture your journey of skills development. You will produce a Skills Development Portfolio: evidence of planning and management of the development process, a series of developmental works and two musical outcomes. This component has a mixture of both theory and practical elements.





What is Comp 3?

Component 3 'Responding to a Brief' is an externally assessed unit. For this component you will re-work existing songs into new versions. You are not only assessed on your musical and technical skills but also on your creative decisions and ideas. You will need to practically explore creating material and refining it for presentation. You will be required to evaluate your process, ideas and final product as well as, reviewing your own strengths, areas for development and own contribution. This component includes both practical and theory elements.

Is there an exam?

No. The BTEC course is delivered vocationally meaning there is no sit-down exam paper. When you start each Component, you are expected to complete the coursework whether that be practically or theoretically within the conditions set by the teacher. Each component has guided hours of which you must complete the work - for example Component 1 is 12 guided hours which means you will have 12 hours to complete the work. At points you will be able to work in groups and others you will have to work independently.



What will I learn?

When studying BTEC Music you will cover

- Development of key skills that prove learners' aptitude in music, such as
 - responding to a musical brief using musical skills and techniques
- Processes that underpin effective ways of working in the music sector, such as
 - the development of musical ideas, and using skills and techniques for rehearsal, creation, production and performance to respond to a music brief.
- Attitudes that are considered most important in the music sector, including.
 - personal management and communication.

- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as musical skills and styles.

What happens if I miss a lesson when it is part of the guided hours? If you miss a lesson due to absence in guided hours as part of a component, you will be required to make up the time and missed work through a coursework catch up session.

Do I get to create my own work?

Yes, there are lots of opportunities for you to create your own work. At times you will work in groups but largely it will be you developing your work independently.

What transferable skills will I learn?

The BTEC Music course caters towards further study in the music industry. However, there are many transferable skills that you may learn throughout the course intended for another career, such as; creativity, planning, applying, consideration, collaboration, interpretation and resilience.

Who will be my teacher?

You will have Mr Ward and Mr Waldren depending on which piece of coursework you are taking. You are very lucky to have teachers who have specifically trained in Music and are specialists in the subject. Both who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the Music industry.

