

‘The Aspiring Music Technician’

KS4/5



**CHELTENHAM
BOURNSIDE
SCHOOL**



Inspiring lives through learning

'The Aspiring Music Technician'



MUSIC TECHNOLOGY



1. THE DEVELOPMENT OF RECORDING TECHNOLOGY

- History of how sound is recorded
- Identifying differences in recordings
- How are recordings created?
- Analysing different recording techniques

2. RECORDING AND PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES - CORRECTIVE AND CREATIVE

- How sound is captured using different equipment
- Audio editing
- Recording live instruments
- Creating new sounds

3. PRINCIPLES OF SOUND TECHNOLOGY

- Acoustics
- Leads and signals
- Numeracy
- Levels



NEA RECORDING

- Use equipment to capture sound
- Manipulate existing sound using technology
- Mix and master recordings

CREATIVE COMPOSITION

- Compose music to fit a brief
- Use synthesis to create and manipulate sounds
- Use sampling to create and manipulate sounds
- Mix and master your composition

'The Aspiring Music Technician'



Music Technology is one of the most exciting and forward-looking areas of study, combining creativity with innovation. At A Level, you will develop a deep understanding of how music is created, recorded, manipulated, and produced, while also gaining the practical skills to bring your own musical ideas to life.

Studying Music Technology is important because it reflects the way much of today's music is made and experienced. From film soundtracks and video games to live performance and studio production, technology plays a central role in shaping how we create and consume music. By exploring these processes academically, you will learn to analyse and produce music with both technical precision and artistic imagination.

Alongside developing practical expertise in recording, mixing, and sequencing, you will also strengthen wider skills such as problem-solving, project management, and collaboration. These are highly valued in creative industries and transferable to many other fields.

Above all, Music Technology encourages you to explore your passion for sound and creativity in a hands-on, modern context. This course will challenge you to think critically, work independently, and innovate.

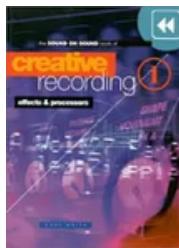
We look forward to supporting you as you develop your technical skills, expand your musical knowledge, and discover the huge potential of music technology in shaping the sounds of the future.

Mr Cutress
Head of Music

Reading list

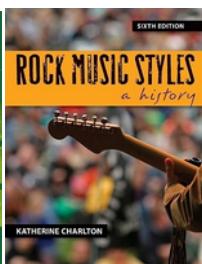
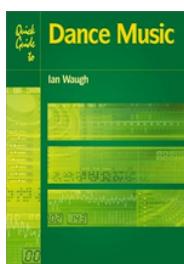
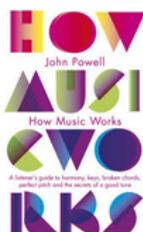


- Creative Recording Part One: Effects and Processors - Paul White
- Creative Recording Part Two - Paul White
- How Music Works: A Listener's guide to harmony, keys, broken chords, perfect pitch and the secrets of a good tune - John Powell
- Music Technology: A survivors Guide - Paul White
- Perfecting Sound Forever: The Story of Recorded Music - Greg Milner
- Pop Music: The Textbook (Revised Edition) - Bricheno, Nichol and Winterson
- Quick Guide to Dance Music - Ian Waugh
- Rock Music Styles: A History - Katherine Charlton



Creative Recording 2
Manufacturing, Acoustics, Soundscaping And Monitoring

Paul White



Competitions



Digital Media Production Competition

The competition has been designed to focus on all the essential skills needed for a successful career within the Digital Media industries. Competitors undertake varying creative roles associated with producing a media production and are required to work towards industry standards. The competition allows for teams to progress through the three main aspects of the production cycle, Pre-production, production and post-production in order to successfully produce a finished artifact which meets all aspects of the original brief.

Listen and Watch



Podcasts



Tape Notes

Podcast about the art and craft of music production. Hosted by John Kennedy, each episode reunites an artist and producer.



Song Exploder

Song Exploder is a podcast where musicians take apart their songs, and piece by piece, tell the story of how they were made.



Mixing Music

Ultimate guide to music production, audio engineering, mixing, and mastering.



The Sonic Scoop

From tips and tutorials on music production and audio engineering, to business masterclasses, interviews with heavy hitting producers, engineers, researchers, journalists, creative entrepreneurs and more, the weekly SonicScoop podcast is unlike any other.

Listen and Watch



Films/YouTube/TV



Produce Like A Pro

Do you want to improve your Recording and Mixing? Be part of an amazing community of people who help each other? We learn how to record studio quality music in your home studio And learn how to Produce Like A Pro.



Venus Theory

I'm a musician, sound designer, and creator crafting audio experiences for games, media, and whatever else I feel like.



In The Mix

In The Mix is all about simplifying the recording, production, mixing and mastering process. Free and easy-to-follow courses, tutorials and equipment reviews.



You Suck at Producing

Take your music production skills to the next level. Learn how to make electronic music from a classically trained electronic music producer.

Listen and Watch



Instagram

@musictech_official (MusicTech Magazine) — gear news, recording & production tips, tutorials.

@pointblankmusicschool — production, mixing, sound design clips; they also post student projects and competitions.

@splice — sound design, sample packs, beat-making tips, creative challenges.

@producerfocus — quick mixing/mastering tricks, inspirational short reels.

@abbeyroadinst (Abbey Road Institute) — real studio insights, professional workflows, and tech history.

TikTok

@you_suck_at_producing — short, funny, but genuinely helpful production/arrangement tips.

@mixwiththemasters — quick insights from world-class producers and engineers.

@beatsbymets — bite-sized DAW hacks and beat production tutorials.

@produce.likeapro — fast mixing & studio workflow tips (paired with the YouTube channel).

X (Twitter)

@soundonsoundmag (Sound on Sound Magazine) — industry standard for gear reviews & studio techniques.

@audiomediaintern (Audio Media International) — *news and gear updates.*

@MUSICtech_Mag — useful articles, software updates, and resources.

Producers & Engineers like Andrew Scheps or Sylvia Massy often share workflow insights and philosophy.

Work Experience and Events



Taking part in work experience and events is especially important for a music technology student, as it allows them to apply technical skills in real-world settings and gain hands-on experience with professional equipment and workflows.

These opportunities help students develop problem-solving abilities, adaptability, and teamwork—qualities highly valued in the industry.

By engaging in live events, studio sessions, or placements, they also build a portfolio that showcases their technical expertise and creativity.

Just as importantly, work experience connects them with industry professionals, opening doors to future collaborations and employment in areas such as recording, production, sound design, or live sound engineering.

Work Experience and Events



Live Music in Cheltenham

Cheltenham Town Hall is Cheltenham's biggest live music venue, it plays host to music, comedy and is a leading venue for the many festivals that take place in the town. Why not offer to help them backstage for work experience week?



Yellow Shark Recording Studios

Recording studios may be able to offer you a tour and to talk about ways into the industry - Yellow Shark is just an example of a local recording studio.



Music, Sound and Technology University Taster

Join us for this fascinating Subject Spotlight as Dr Leslie Gaston-Bird highlights the power of music through performance, technology, and collaboration.



Work Experience | Music for Youth

We offer young people the opportunity to work with us on and at events. Opportunity to learn new skills and experience first-hand what goes into making a national event.



The Music Works

We are a Gloucestershire charity with a mission to transform young lives through music.



The Careers Team at Bournside deliver regular Inspire Breakfast Lectures. Open to students in Year 10 - 13, these business-focused breakfasts invite speakers from all corners of industry to share their professional experiences and valuable insights with Bournside students over breakfast; opening our eyes to the opportunities available across many industry sectors.

[Take a look at upcoming speakers and reserve your space here.](#)



