



A Level Music Technology

Summer Bridging Work

Welcome to Music technology A Level!

Tasks one and two are **compulsory** and will be collected in during our first week of lessons in September. There are also some optional resources at the end of this document; feel free to explore these over the summer if you have time on your hands!

TASK ONE – research task:

I would like you to create a word or powerpoint document which gives *brief* definitions for the following music technology terms:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| - Sampling | - Metronome |
| - Synthesiser | - BPM |
| - MIDI | - Looping |
| - Quantise | - Panning |
| - Mixing | - EQ |

Tip for using a search engine such as Google - try searching 'music technology' or 'music production' plus the term you are looking up. 'Mixing music production' will give you more relevant results than simply 'mixing', which might lead you to Mary Berry's website. Alternatively, try searching for the terms on websites such as www.soundonsound.com, www.musictech.net and www.musictechstudent.co.uk.

TASK TWO – creative task:

Create a piece lasting at least 30 seconds using only sounds you have created/recorded yourself. This could be tapping hands on your desk, wooden spoons on pans, the sound of a running tap... use your imagination to create the sounds, then make the sounds into music! You can use ANY creative processes and effects you wish. I recommend using *looping*, importing the sounds into a *sampler* and creative use of *EQ* as a good starting point. Look up video tutorials to find out how to do this in your chosen software. Write a paragraph giving a few details on how you created the piece.

For a (fast) detailed breakdown of ideas you might use, watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCUrSA-KTas> (from 38s).

More examples can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPM12gqPBUI> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i81NJxRLkXc>

To record sounds you could use an app on your phone (e.g. Voice Memos on iphone) or record things directly into your DAW (e.g. GarageBand) using either your computer's in-built microphone or an external mic.

You will need a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) for this task. Below are some suggestions of DAWs you can download for free or trial. We use Apple Macs and Logic Pro X at school, but you will send me the exported audio file, so don't worry if you're using different setup.

If you have a Mac at home:

- GarageBand will likely be installed already, if not it is available for free from the App Store. It's also available for iphone and ipad.

- Logic is currently available on a 90-day free trial from www.apple.com/uk/logic-pro/trial/

If you have a Windows PC at home:

- Cubase Elements free trial available from new.steinberg.net/cubase/trial/

The following apps are online and/or work across Mac and PC:

- Soundtrap www.soundtrap.com/ is an online DAW (when you sign up, select for personal use).
- Audacity audio editor is a basic option - available here: www.audacityteam.org/

If you have any problems with the compulsory tasks, particularly regarding equipment access at home, please email Mrs Ford (lford@royalrussell.co.uk)

Optional tasks

In preparation for September you may wish to explore some of the following resources:

Listening: Listening to popular music from 1930 onwards and thinking analytically about the production will always be useful. Youtube, Spotify are good places to start.

Watching: Popular music/music history/music production documentaries provide really useful background and context to your studies. Lots are free on BBC iPlayer: www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/music-documentaries. There are also options on subscription/streaming services e.g. 'Quincy' and 'Sample This' on Netflix, and a wide range on Sky Arts. (Health warning - there can occasionally be some 'fruity' language in pop music documentaries).

Exploring: Browse any of the following websites, some of which will become 'faithful friends' over the next two years: www.soundonsound.com/ www.musictech.net/ www.learningmusic.ableton.com/ www.musictechstudent.co.uk (email Mrs Ford if you'd like our school login details) www.berklee.edu/mpe/careers (careers in music production and engineering) www.music-jobs.com/uk/jobtypes/job-descriptions.php (Industry jobs/descriptions)

Reading: In September you will be issued with a study guide, revision guide and listening tests book, all published by Rhinegold Education.

Other helpful books include *Music Technology From Scratch* (Mortimer Rhind-Tutt), *Understanding Popular Music* (David Ventura), *An Introduction to Music Technology* (Dan Hosken) and *Mixing Secrets for the Small Studio* (Mike Senior). We have copies of these available in the department.

For any queries about the tasks or the course, please contact Mrs Ford –
lford@royalrussell.co.uk