

# BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance

## Overview

Throughout the BTEC Level 3 music course you will further develop the knowledge, skills and understanding gained at the BTEC Level 2 course you completed in your final year of school. You will need to complete a total of 4 units:

1. **Unit 1:** Practical Music Theory and Harmony
2. **Unit 2:** Professional Practice in the Music Industry
3. **Unit 3:** Ensemble Music Performance
4. With the help of your teacher you will pick from one of these units: **Unit 4:** Composing Music / **Unit 5:** Music Performance Session Styles / **Unit 6:** Solo Performance / **Unit 7:** Improvising Music

All of these units have at least 4 assessment objectives. You will be expected to collect the evidence to show that you have met these objectives. This body of work will be known as your "coursework" and this is what will be marked. You will receive a grade based on the quality of your coursework. Half of your work will be marked by your teacher, and half will be marked externally and by the exam board.

## Bridging Unit

### Lesson 1 - Mr Noble

#### **Unit 1: Practical Music Theory and Harmony**

##### **Aims**

- Examine the signs and symbols used in music notation
- Explore the application of music composition based on musical elements

##### **Content**

1. Go over the basic structure of the BTEC course.
2. Go over the basic structure of Unit 1: Music Theory and Harmony.
3. Listen to "Release" by Afro Celt Sound System and discuss how it has been composed.
4. Learn about scales and their relation to modes.
5. Create a piece of music using the C Aeolian mode and same compositional techniques as "Release"

## Lesson 2 - Mr Ferry

### Unit 3: Ensemble Music Performance

#### Aims

- Explore the skills required for a successful ensemble performance
- To develop ensemble rehearsal skills to a professional music brief

#### Content

1. Go through the requirements for the component
2. Develop understanding of rehearsal skills and sourcing material
3. Begin developing ensemble and research skills with a small group by learning a song.

## Lesson 3 - Mr Noble

### Unit 1: Practical Music Theory and Harmony

#### Aims

- Examine the signs and symbols used in music notation
- Explore the application of music composition based on musical elements

#### Content

1. Recap what was covered in lesson 1 in terms of scales and modes.
2. Working in groups compose a piece of music using a scale and a mode of the group's choice.
3. Create original composition based on the same techniques that are used within "Release".
4. Be able to notate or record composition for future use.

## Summer Work

The following work must be completed over the summer and will link into the work you will complete in Unit 2. The skills will also apply to a few of the other units on the course as well. This work will be presented to the rest of the class and your teacher when we return in September.

### Unit 2: Professional Practice in the Music Industry

#### Aims

- Understand the importance of professional practice in the music industry
- Demonstrate the ability to apply the skills required for working in the music industry

## **Brief**

You have been asked to prepare a piece of music to be performed during Wickham School's Award Ceremony this year. The music can be of any style and genre but must be celebratory in feel. Songs that people have played in the past have included "Firework" by Katy Perry and "The One and Only" by Chesney Hawkes, but you can pick whichever piece of music you think would work best.

Your performance must be a minimum of 1 minute and last no longer than 1 minute and 30 seconds. It can be on the instrument of your choice and of any style and genre, as long as fits the overall theme of the brief.

You will be performing this piece in a lesson in your first few weeks in Sixth Form. It won't be your first lesson, so if you have any questions you will be able to ask your teacher for help. But once you have the date you will be expected to make sure you turn up to the lesson with everything you need to perform. This may include backing tracks on YouTube for example.

Have a great summer - and we will see you in the new academic year!

Messrs Noble and Ferry