**Year 11 into Year 12 Transition - Music Technology**

(4-5 hours work including listening and watching)

Starter Task

Get to know the specification! You can find it by googling ‘Edexcel Music Technology 2017’. It is really important that you know the tasks you will have to undertake.

What coursework tasks will you have to complete?

Task 1 - Research

What do you understand by the term ‘Music Technology’? How has this definition changed over the last 50 years? A useful starting point is thinking about music tech through the decades eg. 60’s, 70’s.

Task 2 – Listening

Find the commercial recordings of these 3 songs and listen to them carefully. Listing the instruments first, how do you think the sound was captured? Was it using a microphone? Was it by plugging the instrument directly into the mixer?

* Uptown Funk, Bruno Mars
* You Can’t Hurry Love, The Supremes
* Stravinsky conducts ‘The Firebird’ 1959

Task 3 – Research

What is a microphone? How does it work? What does it convert? Spend some time looking at different microphones and their characteristics. Another good place to head to is thomman.de (the largest sellers of music tech gear in Europe). Have a look at their microphone section for more information.

Task 4 – Research and Listening

Head to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9elQeVfrLOo> or google ‘youtube Paul McCartney Chaos and Creation at Abbey Road. Watch the documentary. What do you understanding by bouncing down? How was sound recorded in the 1960’s in the way that the Beatles recorded it?

Task 5 – Research

What do you understand by the term mono, stereo and dolby 5.1?

Task 6 – Research

Make notes on the documentary ‘Muse - The Making of the 2nd law’. It’s a great documentary about modern production techniques and how an album is recorded, including the creative process. What strikes you as interesting?

**Synthesis in Popular Music**

Synthesisers are a unique musical instrument and are used in a wide array of musical genres. They can be used in interesting ways to great creative effect within music. Complete the following tasks to gain a better understanding of synthesisers before the A-Level Music Tech course begins.

Task 1

Complete some research on Audio Synthesisers, this could include some interesting dates throughout history, interesting uses of synthesisers in music and how they have impacted music.

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| Research |
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Task 2

Listen to all of the following pieces of music, note how synthesis is being used in each track. Think about how each track differs in style.

Once you have listened to each track, pick your favourite and answer the questions on the next sheet.

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| Track 1 | Michael Seyer – Bad Bonez<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFSifGXe-AI> |
| Track 2 | Flying Lotus – Fall In Love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KEpb4UaAr8> |
| Track 3 | Mungo’s Hi Fi – Did You Really Know<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1HBqaQhzuE> |
| Track 4 | Ed Sheeran & Justin Bieber – I Don’t Care <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y83x7MgzWOA> |
| Track 5 | Cosmo Sheldrake – Wriggle (Mr Jukes Edit)<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3eVhjU1BQA> |
| Track 6 | Dimension – Generator <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeJzxeZ1j50> |
| Track 7 | DJ Zinc ft. Ms Dynamite – Wile Out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKB3hJBvAZY> |
| Track 8 | Jon Hopkins – Open Eye Signal (This song is quite long and repetitive, so you don’t have to listen to it all, although the ending is interesting)<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=va4OyeQHbr8> |
| Track 9 | Author ft. Quark – After Time <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ug7dciDQ2ck> |
| Track 10 | King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard – Deserted Dunes Welcome Weary Feet<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cw3hIGgFJHs> |

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| Notes |
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| **Which track have you picked and why is it your favourite?** |  |
| **What genre(s) would you pick to describe the track?**Multiple Choice | Pop | Rock | Indie | House | Dubstep | Jazz | Techno | Hip-Hop | Drum and Bass | Reggae |
| **What word(s) would you pick to describe the track?**Multiple Choice | Warm | Bright | Crisp | Clear | Mellow | Muddy |
| **In what way(s) are synthesisers used in the track?**Multiple Choice | To enhance the bass of the track | As an accompanying instrument | As a sound effect (SFX) | There is no synthesis | Throughout the entire track | As a main “lead” instrument |
| **Does the addition of a synthesiser make the track more enjoyable? Explain why.** |  |