Music A Level

The Edexcel Music Technology course is a challenging and exciting specification designed to introduce you to the skills and knowledge needed to work in the Music industry. This new specification places an emphasis on the practical techniques, both creative and technical, of working with Music Technology, as well as mastering underlying theory to inform your decision process and professional workflow. Many of our students go on to higher level study in creative Music Technology, Studio Production or related fields. Both Year 12 and Year 13 courses cover three areas of study:
1. Recording and production techniques for corrective and creative purposes
2. Principles of sound and audio technology
3. The development of recording and production technology

Skills Developed
In addition to technical ones, there are many transferable skills involved in the study of Music: team work, concentration, independence, cultural and historical awareness, self discipline and organisation.

Links with other subjects
Most obviously with Music A Level, Physics, Drama and Media.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ...
What are your facilities?
We have a dedicated sequencing suite equipped with iMacs and Logic Pro X. The recording components will take place in our recording studio in Saffron Hall, using industry-standard microphones and interfaces.

What might I do after finishing this course?
Any of these: Composing, Music Production, Recording, Sound Production

Do I need to have done GCSE music?
No, but you must be interested in music and sound technology and some experience in this area would be advantageous. Alongside software skills, you will have to do some composition for Component 2.

Can I study Music and Music Technology A-Level simultaneously at SWCHS?
Yes you can. This is a very popular combination.
## Music A Level

### Year 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECORdING (20%)</th>
<th>TECHNOLOGY-BASED COMPOSITION (20%)</th>
<th>LISTENING AND ANALYSING (25%)</th>
<th>PRODUCING AND ANALYSING (35%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs or artists supplied by Pearson. This will consist of a minimum of three compulsory instruments and two additional instruments and will last between 2 and 2.5 minutes.</td>
<td>One technology-based composition based on a brief set by the exam board. Synthesis, sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects must be included. The total time must be 2.5 minutes.</td>
<td>This internal assessment lasts 1 hour 15 minutes. It tests your knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques in a variety of short questions and one extended essay, comparing two unfamiliar commercial recordings.</td>
<td>In this 1 hour 45 minute assessment, each student will be provided with audio and MIDI materials to edit, manipulate and submit as a final mix. This will consist of both written and practical questions.</td>
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### Year 13

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<tr>
<th>RECORdING (20%)</th>
<th>TECHNOLOGY-BASED COMPOSITION (20%)</th>
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<td>One recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs or artists supplied by Pearson. There will be a minimum of five compulsory instruments and two additional instruments. This recording will last between 3 and 3.5 minutes.</td>
<td>One technology-based composition based on a brief set by the exam board. Synthesis, sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects must be included. The total time must be 3.5 minutes.</td>
<td>This written exam lasts 1 hour 30 minutes. It will test your knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques through four 10-mark questions and two extended essay questions, based on unfamiliar commercial recordings.</td>
<td>In this 2 hour 15 minute exam, each student will be provided with audio and MIDI materials to edit, manipulate and submit as a final mix. This will consist of both written and practical questions.</td>
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For further information please contact:
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