**A-Level Music Technology**

**Overview**

For students who are considering taking Music Technology to A Level this guide should give you an overview of the course, and the kind of skills you can be working on before commencing the course. This A level has 4 main components:

Recording: you will learn how to be a sound engineer and will plan and record a cover version track in the recording studio at school. This will form your coursework for this unit.

Technology-based Composition: you will learn to use a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) to create your own music using technology to do so. You will learn how to create your won sounds (synthesis) and how to manipulate audio loops using creative techniques. This will form your coursework for this unit.

Listening and Analysing: An exam that will test your ability to judge how a piece of music has been recorded, techniques used, and/or how it was created using technology. You will need to develop a knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques in the context of the historical development of music technology – and be able to recognise this when you hear it in a piece of music.

Producing and Analysing: This is also an exam unit, where you will develop a knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and productions techniques in order to create a practical piece of work on the computers during the exam. Your finished practical work will be sent away along with your exam paper.

As you can see you will need to develop skills in all of these areas in order to be successful in this A Level.

**Whilst there will be some specific ‘bridging work’ set on the school website before the end of term, developing an understanding of the following music technology related topics in addition to this would be useful. You could look these up easily online:**

What is a DAW?

What is MIDI?

What is a Click Track? Why is it crucial during recording?

What do the following terms mean – Delay, Reverb, Panning?

What is pitch-correction (autotune), and what are the advantages/disadvantages of using it?

It would be a good idea for you to start early by purchasing a couple of subject specific text books listed in the wider reading list, and also to watch some YouTube tutorials that explain the general kind of software and technology-based work we will be doing. I would recommend joining our Year 11 into 12 Team on MS\_Teams, so that you can access a bank of resources. You can do this by emailing vma@cdarwin.com and requesting to join.

It would also be a good idea to brush up some basic music notation reading and writing skills. Again, there are packs that you can work through in order to improve skills in this area, and these will be available on the Team mentioned above.

**We would recommend that you work on all musical skills each week between now and the start of the course.**

**Save your work in a portfolio that can be incorporated into your subject folder if/once you decide to commence this course.**