



## Pre-entry Preparation, Requirements and Recommendations

Welcome to A-Level Music Technology at Comberton Sixth Form

At A-Level we follow the Edexcel specification for music technology at Comberton Sixth Form. Students will focus on the techniques, practices and principles of music technology as an area of advanced study. They'll learn about the technical principles and techniques that underpin music technology, develop a technical vocabulary, and be encouraged to use music technology as a tool to develop their composing and arranging skills.

### Preparation

Students embarking on this course should have a proven enthusiasm for music technology and a willingness to investigate a wide range of popular styles. Students should listen widely and critically to a range of music throughout the course, and should develop their knowledge and understanding of music technology by subscribing to a periodical such as Sound on Sound, Music Tech Magazine or Future Music.

Concerts and extra-curricular activities are an integral part of the course and several will be arranged throughout the year. However, students are strongly advised to take the initiative and attend events which interest them or which are particularly relevant to their studies.

In advance of the course you should take any opportunity to advance your keyboard skills, visit online sites such as [www.musicradar.com](http://www.musicradar.com) and develop your skills using Logic Pro software. Undertake preparatory reading online around 20<sup>th</sup> century popular music styles focusing on their development and interrelation. Listen to and log examples.

For further reading and preparation, please see:

Music Technology from Scratch (Mortimer Rhind-Tutt, Rhinegold, ISBN 978-1-906178-86-4)

### Requirements

Theory to Grade 3 standard is strongly advised from the start of the course and a reasonable level of keyboard skills in addition to an ability to perform on an instrument are both highly desirable. Students might consider purchasing an appropriate level ABRSM theory workbook and accompanying music theory guide.

You will need an A4 file to store your notes, along with lined paper, highlighters, pens and pencils. From the outset you will also need a large USB pen drive or portable hard drive and a good quality pair of headphones.

If you have any queries about your course preparation please contact Ben Parker, Head of Music  
[bparker@combertonvc.org](mailto:bparker@combertonvc.org)