



Summer Transition Work

BTEC Music Performance Extended Certificate

Hoe Valley Sixth Form

Dear Student,

Over the summer we want you to complete the following tasks below to help you make a successful transition from GCSE to Sixth Form study. Our summer transition work includes the following elements to help you feel like a pro when your sixth form journey begins!

Preparation

This course is designed to develop your practical musicianship, musical literacy and knowledge and understanding of professional practice within the music industry. In addition to music-sector specific content, the course also explores highly desirable skills such as performance techniques, cognitive and problem-solving skills, communication skills, digital competency, self-management and collaborative team working. It is expected that all applicants will play an instrument and/or sing, and should aim to begin the course with a basic understanding of music theory and notation. The qualification equates to one A level and is intended to be studied alongside other subjects over a two-year programme of study. Over the course of the two years, you are expected to complete four units. Three are mandatory (highlighted below in orange) and you have one free choice.

Unit	Mandatory/Optional
1. Practical Music Theory and Harmony	Mandatory
2. Professional Practice in the Music Industry	Mandatory
3. Ensemble Music Performance	Mandatory
4. Composing Music	Optional
5. Music Performance Session Styles	Optional
6. Solo Performance	Optional
7. Improvising Music	Optional

Tasks: Music Theory and Understanding:

Making sure you are up to date with your music theory will give you the best possible start to your 6th form music adventure! Music Theory is a mandatory unit in the course.

1. Watch this short TED-Ed video on [How to read music - Tim Hansen](#). Take notes on how music notation identifies notes, pitch, clef, rhythm and bars.
2. One of the best websites to use that is free is www.musictheory.net - work through the lessons on:
 - a) The staff, clefs and ledger lines
 - b) Note duration
 - c) Measures and time signature
 - d) Rest duration
 - e) The major scale
 - f) The minor scale
 - g) Key signatures

Take detailed notes on each area and practice writing out your clefs and notes. If you require manuscript paper (paper that has staves on), you can print for free from many websites online or you could buy an A4 manuscript book from Amazon like this: [Silvine A4 Music Manuscript Book - Printed 12 Stave \(100 Pages\) : Amazon.co.uk](#)

You can also do tests on this website to check your knowledge!

Task: Performing

This is, first and foremost, a practical course. Ensemble performing is mandatory and solo performance is optional. Whilst ensemble performing may not be possible during the holidays, try to perform as much as you can over the summer - even if it's just you in your home, recording a video diary. Explore lots of different styles! Research warm up exercises for your main instrument and try to develop your technique and stamina as much as possible.

Task: Professional behaviours audit

Watch these documentaries and make notes on what you feel are the most important points.

[The music industry and the digital revolution](#)

<https://www.thebalancecareers.com/music-industry-facts-every-musician-needs-to-know-2460726>

<https://www.bimm.ac.uk/employability/understanding-the-music-industry>

<https://medium.com/@HaydenJenning18/the-fall-of-the-music-industry-where-it-isand-where-its-going-dd12da6427f>

Go through the list of desirable professional behaviours (below). Reflect on why each behaviour is important and the value it could bring to an industry professional. Then RAG (red / amber / green) yourself against each behaviour - you will need to evidence your progress with these professional behaviours as a musician throughout the course.

- Being prepared, reliable and committed
- Being organised and plan using prioritisation skills
- Excellent communication and awareness of others
- Excellent punctuality, able to meet deadlines and considered scheduling
- Able to work in teams, knows when to take the lead or delegate
- Achieves excellent outcomes and good at making decisions

Reading and Research

Below is some essential reading material or some titles that will help you to read around your subject and develop a deeper understanding of the subject, a crucial skill for success in the Sixth Form.

Complete guide to the course:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Nationals/Music/2017/Specification/9781446928110-btec-nat-extcert-music-spec-prepubfinal.pdf>

Music Theory additional help:

[Music Theory For Dummies, 4th Edition: Amazon.co.uk](#)

[Writing musical notation - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Building Blocks - YouTube](#)

Creating your own music:

[How to Write Great Lyrics - 5 Tips for Beginners!](#)

[How Ed Sheeran Writes A Melody | The Artists Series S1E3](#)

[10 Powerful Chord Progressions Every Songwriter Should Know](#)

<https://edu.bandlab.com/invitation>

[How Does Music Production Work? Learn with Free Software \[Bandlab Tutorial - Part 1\]](#)

How to market yourself as a musician:

<https://www.musicindustryhowto.com/music-marketing/>

[CREATE A MARKETING STRATEGY FOR YOUR MUSIC | Music Marketing](#)

Organisation

Please ensure that you have an A4 lined paper pad (with a margin), a small ring binder (for the day-to-day notes), a lever arch file (to be kept at home for storing your notes) and dividers (to store your notes by unit). A large part of BTEC is documenting and proving your progress so you will need to keep a detailed summary of every lesson. You may also find it useful to have a large document file for booklets etc that we will give you. We will give you an A4 manuscript notebook for your composition, theory and harmony work. Please make sure you have a good supply of HB pencils, a small ruler and a good quality rubber. You will also have music software on your chromebook and on the Music department computers. You will need a smartphone or equivalent for videoing your practical lessons as these form a vital part of your final assessments.