

For a visual introduction to BTEC Music, please [Click Here](#)

an introduction to BTEC Music at Burnley College

Staff Members

Programme Leader: **Poppy Olah**

Lecturers: **Dave Rothery, Chris O'Connor, David Boon, Gregory Harper**

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Study Topics

First Year

Performing As An Ensemble	Creating Musical Material	Using Musical Styles	Planning A Career In The Music Industry
Working As A Band, Developing A Set, Performing To An Audience, Evaluating Your Progress	Compositional Techniques, Music Theory, Using Daws	Understanding Different Genres Over The Decades, Arranging Music In Different Styles	Sectors And Jobs In The Music Industry, Industry Issues, Creating A Career Plan

Second Year

Personal Music Profile	Collaborative Music Project
Creating a development Plan, Work On Personal Skills, Self-promotion	Undertaking A Technical Project Role, Collaborating On A Project

What Are Lessons Like?

Mac Lab	Studio	Classroom
A classroom with iMacs loaded with Logic Pro X, Ableton Live, and other specialist software.	A recording studio with three practice rooms attached. Each practice room can be routed into the studio for multi-track recordings.	A typical classroom similar to what you had at school, except that there might be computers/ laptops.
Used for: practical coursework, specialist software, demonstrations, presentations.	Used for: band practice, arranging, recordings	Used for: theory, research tasks, evaluations, diaries

What to bring with you

Every day necessities	Recommended equipment
Headphones (that fit a 3.5mm socket) Picks/ Stick/ Capos Pen, Paper, USB drive	Instrument Leads Phone charger

Assessment & Grades

On a Btec course, you can receive one of three grades for an assessment - pass, merit, or distinction, a pass being the lowest and distinction being the highest. Below are some

examples of what is needed to achieve each grade in the different assessment types on a music course.

	Performances	Practical	Written
Distinction	With confidence and creative flair	Near professional standard	Evaluate
Merit	With no noticeable errors	A good standard	Explain
Pass	With some noticeable errors	A competent standard	Describe

Expectations

Attendance & Punctuality

We expect you to attend every lesson and to be there on time, because if you don't you are negatively affecting everybody's learning and progress.

Work Hard

When you are in college we expect you to approach work with enthusiasm and hard work. If you are at college then you have made a choice to be studying music, so if you can't put the effort in - you might be on the wrong course!

Questions

We don't want you to be afraid to ask questions, we want you to ask lots of questions. There will be lots of new topics and a range of previous learning/experience, so don't be put-off by other students - ask away!

Independent work

You will be spending 15 hrs a week in classes, but we also ask that you spend 15 hrs a week outside college carrying out 'independent study'. Now, for music students this is quite fun - practising, learning music theory, listening to music, developing ear training etc., but it may also be research or catching up on written assignments.

Practice

A big emphasis on practice, as if you are not already doing at least an hour of practice everyday - you should be! That is the minimum standard of the modern musician, and if you want to 'make it' as a performer then it needs to be at least an hour, if not more.

Deadlines

Due to the practical nature of the qualification you will be completing coursework throughout the year. This means there will be lots of deadlines, so you need to manage your time well.

Organised

As mentioned before there is lots of coursework, which means you will have lots of files, folders, projects, audio/video files to keep track of and keep organised. The main way we do this is through GoogleDrive, so making sure to label everything with a clear name, and organised into folders will help you keep track of all your work - and avoid the inevitable "My work has gone missing!".

Food & Drink

There is no food allowed in ANY of the learning spaces in college. Bottled (not cans) drinks are allowed in the classroom, in the Mac Lab (away from the Macs), but NOT in the studio. Drinks can be taken into the corridor outside if needed.

Phones

We occasionally use phones as part of the lesson, like quizzes, research, or to listen to music, but unless we have explicitly told you that you can use them - keep them in your pocket/ bags!

Enrichment

We have plenty of enrichment opportunities in college, such clubs and societies, college trips, and student development days. We also organise trips with the division, such as...

The Grand

The Grand is a £1 million live performance venue and recording studio based in Clitheroe, Lancashire. It has amazing industry standard facilities and an experienced sound team to give you an insight to the equipment involved in venues/studios.



The BME (Liverpool)

An interactive history of British music with holographic performances, and lots of iconic (and very expensive) equipment for you to have a jam on at the end!

AMS Neve

One of the world's leading audio equipment manufacturers - and they're right here in Burnley! We had a look around some of their flagship equipment (that costs more than some people's houses!) , and their factory floor.





Schools Tour

Every year we take our exemplary students on a schools tour, where we provide performances and a course overview to prospective students in the local area. This also provides an insight into life as a touring musician!

Recommended Viewing

YouTube

12Tone - A great channel for all things music theory

David Bennet Piano - Theory, as well as some analysis and performance (piano)

Adam Neely - theory, performance, and industry - some at a high level though!

Rick Beato - theory, performance, and recording/ production

Blogs/ Websites

FlyPaper (Soundfly) - theory, songwriting, recording/producing, industry

Music Radar - recording/producing, gear and equipment, industry

Music Consultant - industry news and issues

Musician's Union - **YOUR** union, good to know how they can help and protect you!