



The Music Technology team are really looking forward to seeing all of you in September as part of our next A Level Music Technology group. As you now have quite a bit more time to yourselves, it's a great opportunity to start experimenting and developing your music tech skills throughout the summer term. We have put together some links for you to access before you start your A level music technology course. This will give you an insight into the course. Don't worry though, we know most students will have little or no experience with Music Technology before embarking on the course. This guide is to help you develop the basics before September and most importantly, have some fun creating music of your own.

The Course

At Formby High School, we follow the Edexcel A Level Music Technology course. To be well prepared for September, it's useful for you to take a look at how the course is broken down. You can find the full details of the course [Music Technology A Level specification](#).

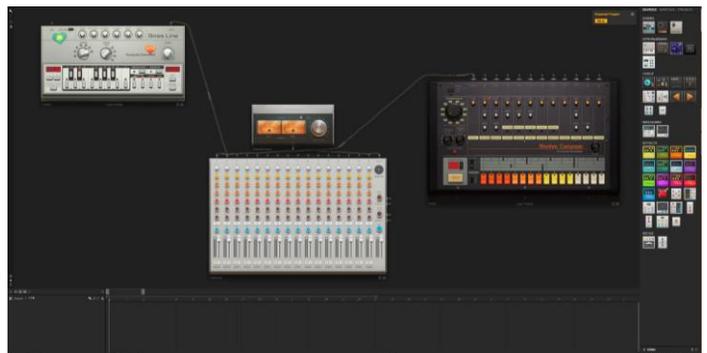
Recording

A big part of the course is learning how to use a recording studio. You will be learning how to run sessions, navigate new equipment, become the role of a producer and mix your own recordings. There are some great resources out there. <https://www.soundonsound.com/> is a great place to get tips on recording techniques and new technology.

Audiotool is an online music creation platform. It uses virtual synths and drum machines patched into a virtual mixing desk. FX can also be used as inserts/sends when mixing your sounds.

<https://www.audiotool.com/>

(create a free account / log in - only works in chrome)



Technology based composition

<https://new.steinberg.net/stayhome/>

We use Cubase software in school to complete most of our computer based coursework. Steinberg, who make Cubase are kindly giving you 60 days free on their software packages. Check them out.

There are some great programs that you can use to experiment with.

Online simulation of a **Roland TR808** drum machine (iconic drum machine heard on countless hit recordings)

<https://io808.com/>

(make sure you use a Chrome browser).



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If you have an iPhone or iPad download a free **Mini Moog** app from the app store. (The Mini Moog is **the** Iconic synthesiser, experimenting with the controls on this virtual instrument will give you a great introduction to the subject of synthesis). There are some other free synthesiser and beat making apps available so check a few out.

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/minimoog-model-d-synthesizer/id1339418001>

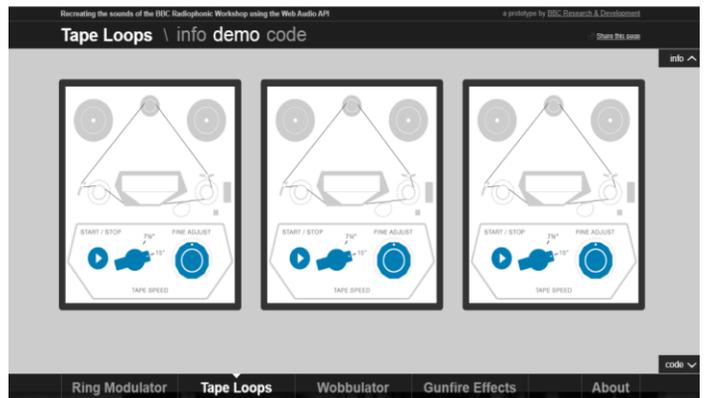
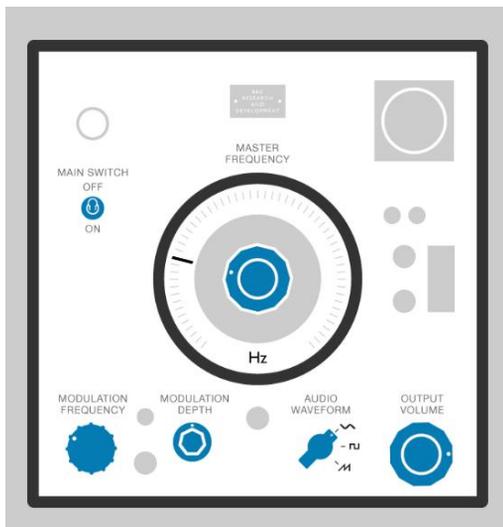


Music Technology and its influence on the industry

Developing a wide listening repertoire and knowledge of pop and rock musical styles, is really important to succeed at A Level Music Technology. Music Technology influenced so many genres and created how music is played and performed today. To get a head start, try and immerse yourself in music you wouldn't normally listen to. Start listening to the radio, podcasts and documentaries. There are so many around!

Online simulation of the **BBC Radiophonic Workshop** and the techniques that they used to make electronic music, long before synthesisers. (scroll down the page to find interactive elements - again works in a Chrome browser).

<https://webaudio.prototyping.bbc.co.uk/wobbulator/>



<https://webaudio.prototyping.bbc.co.uk/tape-loops/>

TV

There are not many places that rival BBC Four for music.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/categories/music/featured>

There are so many useful documentaries for you to search through.

Websites

<https://www.musictech.net/tag/covid-19/>

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Books



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