

Starting with confidence >>

BTEC Music (Performing)

The following is a list of activities you may like to do during your summer holidays, in preparation for studying BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Music (Performing).

Your GCSE or BTEC course at school will have provided you with some valuable experience of performing, researching, analysing and listening. It may also have provided you with experiences of working in groups with other musicians.

On this course these skills will be dramatically developed, so it is as well that you keep your musical wits sharp!

On the BTEC Music Performing course you will be required to perform music from a variety of different genres. You will find it helpful if you are already aware of some of the leading musicians of each genre and how the music of each genre is constructed.

- Blues <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blues>
- Jazz <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz>
- Country & Western http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Country_and_western
- Rock http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_music
- Metal http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_metal_music
- Reggae <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reggae>
- Funk <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Funk>
- Soul http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soul_music
- Punk http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punk_rock

You will have to undertake regular practice sessions in your own time (we recommend at least three sessions a week), which will have to be documented. You will find it helpful to adopt a routine before the start of your studies.

Some guidelines to undertaking successful independent practice are available via the links below:

- www.singingwood.com/NewFiles/CarnegiePractice.html
- www.oercommons.org/courses/a-guide-to-great-home-music-practice/view
- www.musicteachershelper.com/blog/a-shared-handout-how-to-practice

You may find it helpful to possess some basic knowledge of Music Theory, especially chords, keys and rhythms. Listed below are some helpful websites offering free, online lessons.

- <http://teoria.com/index.php>
- www.all-guitar-chords.com/lesson.php?id=166
- www.musictheory.net/lesson

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When you perform as a soloist on the course, you may require a backing track. All backing tracks must **not** contain the instrument you are presenting. Below are some websites where you may be able to obtain tracks:

- www.freejamtracks.com
- www.jamtracks.ru/en/mpjam.html
- www.karaoke-version.com/free

Your performance skills are assessed continually throughout the course. It is strongly recommended that you continue with instrumental or voice tuition to support your studies.