

Our Ref: FHO/SJB
Date: 9th September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

Free Music Technology & Production Course

I am really pleased to announce that, as a school, we have been offered a free 10-week music technology and production course from NMPAT, the county music trust, starting this term. There are 30 places available for Year 8 & 9 pupils, who will be given a paired 20-minute session each week.

Pupils will be taught a range of technological processes and will be provided with all the equipment/tools they will need. A detailed weekly breakdown can be found overleaf.

Places will be issued on a first come first served basis. Please use the online form below to sign up for these sessions. The form will close when the places have been filled, or by Wednesday 17th September at 9am.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rEGQyafLqU2oztMQI_kfsp95ioTBF9Jqb6Q5ufhVr1URU1YUFZRVFRFSVVIU0hKNDE1Mzc1TFVXMy4u

To get the most benefit out of this fully-funded opportunity, pupils will need to commit to attending their sessions each week.

This is a fantastic opportunity for any pupil but especially those who are considering Music as a GCSE option in Year 10.

Yours faithfully,



Miss F Hope
Head of Music & Performing Arts
fhope@thedustonschool.org

Mr S Strickland - Principal - BA (Hons), MA, NPQH
01604 460004 | office@thedustonschool.org | www.thedustonschool.org



Course content

Over ten weeks students will learn how to use a Digital Audio Workstation to create their own compositions.

<p>WEEK 1</p> <p><u>Account creation, what is a DAW?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students set up their folder on supplied laptop • Blank project created on chosen DAW • Look at basic functions in software 	<p>WEEK 6</p> <p><u>Setting the Coursework Template</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Import drum audio file beat & import Midi Files and assign virtual instruments • Create a 32-bar structure • Select correct BPM
<p>WEEK 2</p> <p><u>Loops and Beat creation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to built in loops of DAW • Combine loops to create a drum part and set BPM 	<p>WEEK 7</p> <p><u>Creating Basslines & Melody</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manipulate chord parts to create bass line from root notes • Edit notes in pitch and rhythm in piano roll to create unique part
<p>WEEK 3</p> <p><u>Editing Loops/structure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editing loops, such as resizing, duplicating, renaming, fade in/out • Build upon drums with melodic loops and discuss song structure 	<p>WEEK 8</p> <p><u>Effects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add effects to the project, looking at Reverb, Delay, Chorus, Distortion and how to use the plugin effectively
<p>WEEK 4</p> <p><u>MIDI, Virtual Instruments and Piano Roll</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to midi and piano roll • Choose a virtual instrument for parts • Use a midi keyboard to trigger sounds 	<p>WEEK 9</p> <p><u>Mixing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn how to use the mixer to balance the sounds with volume and panning
<p>WEEK 5</p> <p><u>Real-time recording</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use midi keyboard to input melody in real time using record function • Quantise, edit notes and values in piano roll 	<p>WEEK 10</p> <p><u>Completion of track</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final checks and export as 16 bit/44.1 wav file