



**WELCOME TO**  
**A LEVEL**

## Music Technology at Hurtwood

Well, you have chosen to join one of the most exciting music departments in the country and we are really looking forward to working with you in September. We are equipped to a very high standard with 4 purpose built recording studios as well as a teaching suite, all of which run the industry standard platforms Pro Tools, and Logic. There are also 5 practice rooms where musicians and singers can undertake lessons or individual rehearsal.

Below are some of the exciting things that you can get involved with during your time at Hurtwood, and we hope that you will be challenged and inspired by the facilities, fantastic staff and industry professionals you will be working with.

Have a read through and then check out the video\audio links and tasks that will help get you ready. Most importantly get in touch, we're waiting to hear from you. Tell us what you have been up to musically, what artists you like, what instruments you play. If you have any songs or performances you would like to share, then we'd love to hear them – what are you waiting for?

Email to

Dave Parsons– Head of Music  
[dave.parsons@hurtwood.net](mailto:dave.parsons@hurtwood.net)

Daniel Pearson– Teacher MTech  
[daniel.pearson@hurtwood.net](mailto:daniel.pearson@hurtwood.net)

## Instrument Lessons

The Music Department offers lessons in a wide range of instruments and styles including classical and contemporary approaches. All the tutors are working professionals and as such bring valuable experience into their teaching.

Currently there is a team of 14 tutors providing over 150 lessons per week. These are timetabled so that they do not clash with students' academic studies, thus ensuring that students can get the most out of their time at Hurtwood. All instrument tuition is undertaken in dedicated teaching and practice rooms.



Sign up using InForm

## Performance

The Music Department encourages students to express their creativity and musical prowess through various concerts and performances throughout the school year. There are regular informal lunchtime concerts in which students and staff of all abilities are given the opportunity to take part.



As you would expect, the department liaises closely with the Theatre Department on many projects and especially in the production of the Hurtwood Concert. This is a large public concert which showcases the very best of the musical talent that Hurtwood has to offer. The concert runs for several performances at the end of January each year – click the link below.

The Music Department also provides technical sound support for various other school productions including Freshers' Cabaret, The Christmas Musical and the Musical Theatre Showcase. Students are encouraged to expand their knowledge and experience by undertaking various roles ranging from operating the Front of House sound to providing

backstage support. Students gain valuable real world, hands on experience with industry professionals.

Checkout the link to this year's concert – just click on thumbnail or paste address into browser.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwPrJq6fFAg>

## Project You Tube

An unbelievable opportunity to have your work seen by a global audience and credited. Take part in professional music video shoots, on a YouTube channel with over 50'000 subscribers. Singers, Musicians, film crew, and photographers can all take part in this year's spectacle.

With views on our previous videos topping 2 million in seasons 1 and 2, we have set the bar high! Many of our students have also been offered work as a result of their participation in the project which can act as a springboard for those aspiring to be the very best in their field.



**Check it out online!**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2IRFg\\_r\\_y0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2IRFg_r_y0)

## The Hurtwood Album



The Hurtwood Album is a large recording and performance project that involves students and staff from across the school community. Students are encouraged to sing or play on songs of their choice that are then recorded and produced by students following the Music Technology course. The album is released every 2 years.

Check out the Hurtwood Album - click the link and scroll to the bottom of the site.

<https://www.hurtwoodhouse.com/creative-and-performing-arts/music-technology/>



## Planning Ahead for September

Now is the perfect time to get ahead and prepare for your Music Technology course in September. Whether you are a musician, singer, songwriter or producer there are things that you can do to keep your creative edge so that you can hit the ground running when you arrive at Hurtwood.

### Watch

A Beginners Guide to Recording  
Parts 1-5

Really useful introduction to multitrack recording – click on the thumbnail or paste the link into your browser



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UK5\\_XUoaSE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UK5_XUoaSE)

Spinal Tap – the movie  
Blues Brothers – the movie

### Websites

The sites below are full of resources and quizzes

Music technology A level resources <http://sbsmusictech.wordpress.com/>

Music technology student <https://musictechstudent.co.uk>

Music technology magazine <https://soundonsound.com>

### Reading

Check out the following magazines that are packed full of useful articles on techniques and all the latest kit

Sound on Sound  
Future Music  
Music Tech Magazine

## Projects

Here are some projects you can try – give them a go and email us with what you have done

1. This is a mean one but choose your 3 favourite songs of all time and write a short paragraph about what you love about them. You may want to mention the performance, the arrangement, the production, and how the song makes you feel.
2. In Music Technology you are going to need to fine tune your listening skills. So, have a listen to the following track and try to answer the following questions

The 1975 – Sincerity is Scary



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1K93ioXL63c>

- a) List the instruments you can hear in the song in the order that they come in. Make a note of the time each new instrument comes in.
  - b) What musical influences can you hear in this track?
  - c) What production techniques or audio manipulation have been used in this song?
3. Have a think about the Rock n Roll genre from the 1950s. Make some bullet points about what was so new about this music and how it changed the music industry.

Think about things such as instrumentation, technical innovation, target market, artists and how the music was listened to by the audience

4. Ok – here is one for those of you with Logic.

If you want to give it a go then email Dave/Dan so that you can pick up the files you will need

a) Try to mimic the beats of both Daft Punk and Timbaland

You will need to manually input:

Kick  
Snare  
Hi Hat Closed  
Hi Hat Open



b) In the 2 spaces provided, you will need to mimic a beat of your choosing from a commercially available song.

c) Now that you have created a beat from a song, I have given you. It is time to listen to a song you enjoy and mimic the beat.

- a. Explore different drum kit sounds to more closely match your chosen song
- b. Try to mimic the playing dynamics of each instrument
- c. Experiment with separating out tracks for Kick, Snare, hi hat, this gives you more control over the sound.
- d. Use the instrument browser on the left-hand side to find samples/instruments/drum machines that closely match each element

d) Add to your beat by incorporating a NEW bassline, chords, or add a melody to your mimicked beat. Make a new song!