

Music Technology Lessons at Abingdon School – Q&A

1. What equipment do we have?

Apple mac running Logic X/Ableton and Pro-tools DAW packages. MOTU 896HD + Presonus ADAT Audio Interface, Native Instrument and Waves plugins. Ableton Push and Akai Key controller. Adam nearfield monitors.

Various microphones and accessories for capture of sound.

2. What are we offering?

Music production and engineering skills all focused around music making as the main activity. The lessons are designed around the musical interests of the pupil and involve the creation of original music. Many pupils come with ideas on sound and music they would like to create, so we explore all the processes involved to realise a finished, recorded piece or work. The processes involved; Initial discussions on style/genre, sound/Instrument choices and design, organisation of tracks, writing musical parts, arrangement, editing, production/mixing and mastering to a desired file format.

3. How do the lessons work?

Currently there is a nice mix of year groups participating in these lessons and further opportunity to work together on the Wednesday Other Half activity afternoon. The pupils benefit enormously from having the freedom to express themselves through music and sound of their own choice. This often leads to a personal workflow and creative approach that's unique to them. We encourage group work, as this requires an essential discipline and can often lay the foundations for future producers.

The lessons often attract non-instrumental musicians, therefore making the department truly inclusive.

4. Music Technology applications in school – drama and music

Music Technology can support the music department with academic studies and contribute towards composition coursework for GCSE and A level. There are also opportunities to work with the Film and Drama dept providing sound tracks and the live recordings of events and concerts throughout the school calendar.

5. Careers in the field

Recent pupils have gone onto courses and careers in commercial music and sound recording and an understanding of the use of this essential technology will give future candidates an important edge.

Teacher: Mr Alex Hehir