

Totton Music Summer Tasks

Hello,

Thank you for applying to study music at Totton College. Below are tasks designed to test your current abilities and give you an opportunity to show passion, drive and creativity. These tasks are designed to be completed over a sustained period of time. Students who have spent time and effort researching, planning and completing these tasks have excelled when studying at college. It is advised that students track their own progress by creating an online blog or diary where they can upload evidence, keep track of where they are at and reflect on their own personal development.

The course is split into two pathways; Music Performance or Music Technology. Please choose one pathway that you would like to pursue for the duration of your course. There will of course be opportunities to experience both performance and technology as they complement each other throughout the course, for example, Performance students will learn Music Production Techniques in order to support their studio craft and Technology student will learn Keyboard Skills in order to support their production and compositions.

You will be expected to send your completed tasks to gmccarthy@totton.ac.uk by Friday 26th of June 2020.

Good Luck! Have fun and enjoy!

Gareth McCarthy

Music and Music Technology Instructor

Performance:

Practice is key for any successful musician. Creating and sticking to a practice plan and a schedule over time is important in order to learn new material and develop the technical ability required to confidently thrive in many different environments.

1. You must create a practice plan that is no more than an hour long.

Your plan must include:

- Getting yourself/instrument ready
- Tuning/warm up methods for your instrument/vocals
- Theory practice section
- Material practice section
- Review of progress/target setting for next practice

You will need to describe and explain what you are going to do and why you are doing it. Your practice routine should be focused and have a clear target.

2. You must then create a schedule for the Summer Holidays that uses your practice routine to develop your skills over time.

Your plan should:

- Have a clear target/goal that you hope to achieve by the end of the schedule
- Allow you to show continued personal development over time
- Stretch you beyond your comfort level

3. You will now carry out your practice routine and schedule, keeping a detailed practice log.

Your log should include:

- Time and date of practice
- Goal for the session
- What you accomplished
- Review of session
- Next steps/Target for next session
- Review of current progress in reaching overall goal

4. You will need to collect recorded evidence of you carrying out your practice schedule.

This can either be video or audio but will need to be organised and show development over time.

Technology:

Choose from Task 1 or Task 2.

Task 1:

Nowadays, recording music is not just something reserved for those who can afford studio time but something that, thanks to the development of technology, is available to us all.

The development of the DAW has allowed musicians and producers all over the world the ability to record and produce music outside of the studio environment in a professional way.

You have been asked by Hail Mary Records to create a DAW equipment plan including pricing and links for one of their production spaces.

Firstly, you are to describe and explain what a DAW is and its developments over time so the company can ensure you know what you're talking about.

Then you must develop an equipment list that includes all the relevant pieces of equipment and software needed to create a state-of-the-art DAW production room. Unfortunately, as they are a small company, they have a budget of £3000 and cannot go over that.

You must explain to Hail Mary Records why you have chosen certain items in order to justify them choosing your DAW plan.

Task 2:

You have been asked by Hail Mary Records to produce a track for one of their up and coming artists. The artist is a young female vocalist who is inspired by a wide range of current and popular artists.

She is performing two sets at BoomTown Festival this summer. One in the afternoon and one at night. She requires a new song for either performance.

She is an excellent lyricist, so lyrics are not essential but if you have a solid idea for a vocal hook then please include it.

Your track must be current, well structured, balanced and interesting. It must be saved in an appropriate file format.

You will be competing with other producers but will be given the opportunity to sign with Hail Mary Records if you are successful!