**Year 11 into Year 12 Music Technology**

The field of Music Technology is huge and constantly evolving. At the same time there are certain concepts and techniques that will never lose their relevancy. Here are some suggestions for how to prepare yourself for September.

1. **Pick a program and explore its features**  
   We mostly use Logic Pro at SWCHS, but the skills you build in one program will be transferrable to any other you use through your career. Buying a Mac and Logic is expensive. Here are some other suggestions:
   * [Cakewalk](https://www.bandlab.com/products/cakewalk) (free, Windows only)
   * [Studio One Prime](https://shop.presonus.com/Studio-One-4-Prime) (free, Windows only)
   * [Ableton 90-day trial](https://www.ableton.com/en/trial/)
   * [Logic 90-day trial](https://www.apple.com/uk/logic-pro/) (Mac only)
2. **Software tutorials**  
   Just because you don’t own Logic doesn’t mean you can’t explore its features in advance of starting in September. My favourite resources for Logic tutorials are:
   * [MusicTechHelpgGuy](https://www.youtube.com/user/MusicTechHelpGuy)
   * [Music Tech Explained](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxuW8zoL9P6Q28iV6a8a2tw)
   * [imamusicmogul](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95ZmXc4WPbQ&list=PLaCZNICQYbBEhxYU11vTWque8n3y6PUye&index=1)
3. **Recording**  
   You should start researching microphones and learning more about the different operating principles (dynamic, condenser), polar patterns and the uses of specific microphones. You could start by researching the Shure SM57, Rode NT1-A, AKG C414, AKG D112 and Sennheiser MD421. The [Neumann website](https://www.neumann.com/homestudio/en/filter/Academy) has some great articles on mic specifications and techniques.
4. **Theory and history**  
   As well as getting experienced with software and hardware, it would be useful to explore some of the theory underlying Music Technology. Here are some resources I recommend:
   * [This introduction to Effects processing](https://blog.landr.com/audio-effects-plugins-guide/) by LandR
   * Any topic that interests you on the [MrAudioSoundImages](https://www.youtube.com/user/MrAudioSoundImages/videos) channel
   * [Sound on Sound](https://www.soundonsound.com/techniques/using-your-sequencers-equalisers). Older articles are free.
5. **Music**  
   Listen carefully to music, both new and old, and try to find out about the production techniques involved. Some resources to help you do this include:
   * [Bandcamp daily](https://daily.bandcamp.com/). Curated playlists and musical inspiration.
   * [Pitchfork Features](https://pitchfork.com/features/). Articles on music and the industry.
   * [RA Exchange Podcast](https://www.residentadvisor.net/podcast.aspx) and any other interviews and articles you can find about artists and their production techniques.