

St Mary Redcliffe and Temple 6th Form



Year 11 into 12 transition task

Subject: Music Technology

SMRT 6th Form gives students the chance to study new subjects that they have not experienced at GCSE. We want to ensure that everybody who has chosen such a subject has a good understanding of it involves so that they don't find themselves having to swap within the first few weeks or stuck with something that turns out not to be what they expected.

We have therefore set you a simple task to complete, which you should bring with you to your first lesson. It shouldn't take you too long, but there are more resources suggested that you could look at if you want to get deeper in to the subject before you start.

Before the start of term, you should:

Prepare an analysis of a song (something that is commercially available) that you really like. Listen to it five or six times on different equipment; earphones, car stereo, hi-fi, headphones, computer etc. Each time you listen to it you should listen out for each of the following elements;

1. balance,
2. panning (panorama),
3. frequency range,
4. dimension (you will almost certainly have to close your eyes for this one), and
5. dynamic changes.

Write a short paragraph on each of these elements and be prepared to play your song and present your analysis of the mix to the class.

Each of these elements is explained and illustrated, using songs you can check out for yourself, in the resource downloadable from the SMRT website titled *Critical Listening Exercises*.

To get more into what this subject is about at a higher level:

If you fancy buying a book you should read – *Mixing Audio* by Roey Izhaki

This YouTube video is really interesting –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhu6ql-Wms>

Take a look at this website – Mike Senior is a producer, mixing engineer and journalist for 'Sound on Sound' magazine. He posts all of his articles on his website alongside all of the audio for every track in his 'mix clinic'. You can download every track and have a go at some of his strategies and techniques from his articles.

<http://www.cambridge-mt.com/MikeSenior.htm>