



# Moorside High School

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are aware, the content and assessment material for all subjects is constantly evolving and it is vital as a school we keep up with these changes and ensure that we are offering the right courses that suit our students. Following a recent review of all courses, we have made the decision that from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023, we will be delivering the Pearson BTEC Tech Awards – Music Practice, rather than the traditional GCSE Music course.

The main reason we have come to this decision is that this course offers a different style of assessment which we feel will be more accessible to students. The BTEC is still an equivalent qualification to the GCSE, however the way the course is structured lends itself to better support the students. The content of the course remains largely the same, however, students will complete three coursework components instead of the original two and a written Theory & Appraising exam. The components include Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles, Component 2: Music Skills Development and Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief.

The added advantage of moving to this course is that other schools across the Trust also deliver Pearsons Enterprise. This will allow us as a school to network with colleagues to ensure we have high quality resources and support from the network. It will also allow for robust moderation and support collaboration when it comes to assessing the coursework element.

Finally, this course offers students the opportunity to complete hands-on practical tasks related to the music industry and music practice. This includes activities such as tracking their instrumental progress, exploring music products and the business side of industry, and responding to a music brief through composition.

We understand that this course title and examination board is not the initial choice your child selected, but we would like to reassure you that ultimately, we believe this will help students to reach their musical potential and make stronger progress overall. If your child is considering studying A Level Music or A Level Music Technology at college, then myself and Miss Semmens will also be offering Grade 5+ Theory lessons within our timetabled sessions for anyone who is interested. The benefit of studying the Grade 5+ Theory content is that it allows students to understand musical theory at a deeper level, which is something that is required at A Level standard.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at [keely.hill@consilium-at.com](mailto:keely.hill@consilium-at.com).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Miss K Hill  
Head of Music

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