

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a pilot supported by a large academy trust
Curriculum Provision	✓	Real music industry input for a BTEC Music course
Employer Partnerships	✓	Involving one of the best recording studios in Birmingham
Reflective Young People	✓	Developing Listening, Presenting and Creativity skills
Informed Career Choices	✓	Helping with 'Understanding job roles in the music industry'

Leading recording studio seeks fresh ideas from BTEC Music students

Greenwood Academy in Birmingham offers a BTEC Music course, with a dozen students in the current year 10 cohort. One of the course units requires them to learn about The Music Industry and exam papers can pose questions about imaginary scenarios. The teacher was hoping to present the group of students with something that would be more real and meaningful.

The Mushrooms is one of the leading recording studios in Birmingham's thriving music scene. A discussion with the director resulted in agreement to record two short video clips for use in the classroom; one giving a virtual tour of the facilities and the other describing how they run the business and attract clients. This concluded by asking the question, 'Are we missing a trick?'

Working in small groups, students came up with their ideas, having found out more about the recording studio's current clients and facilities from the company website and YouTube videos of recording sessions. The student work was gathered together in a set of Powerpoint slides.

The original intention was for the dozen students to present their ideas to Matt, the director, on a visit to the studio. But closure of both the school and the business due to the Covid-19 crisis made this impossible. Nevertheless, Matt recorded a 10 minute video message specifically responding to the students' bright ideas, telling them, 'We're shut at the moment, so we're doing some maintenance work ... to make use of our time in this down-time period ... Do keep trying to stay focused and work hard at all of your subjects ... Let me go through the feedback you sent me and I'll give you my thoughts. Some great ideas, thank you very much. Well done ...'

Benefits for the Students

The achievement I am most proud of as a result of this experience is:

- 'Giving Matt some advice on his studio and also finding out more about his studio and also working as a team to present ideas to the class.'
- 'I understand what my choices are after I leave school so I can continue with music.'
- 'I'm proud that I have learned what I have and so I can achieve what I am doing, and also do good in the future.'
- 'Learning more about the music industry thanks to this experience.'

Benefits for the School

- The project helped with learning aims of ‘understanding different types of organisations that make up the music industry’ and ‘understanding job roles in the music industry’.
- Videos from the local recording studio provide a real context for students when answering questions about imaginary scenarios and the resources can be reused with other students.
- Teacher feedback stated that, ‘I would very much like to repeat the project with the next cohort of students and develop the challenge.’

Benefits for the Employer

With a suite of recording facilities and run by an entrepreneurial owner, the company often receives requests from schools to place students on work experience or to come and speak to students in schools. The specialised work and the busy and unpredictable schedule does not make this possible, but the director agreed to an arrangement that required 20 minutes of his time for informal video recording on a mobile phone. He is keen to promote interest in the music industry, working on occasions with students on degree courses, so the project enabled involvement with a younger age group, but without large demands on his time.

SECTION B

Use Brief A to answer questions 13 to 15.
Read Brief A carefully and then answer the questions.

Brief A – Suki's studio

Suki's studio

Suki owns a small, popular recording studio. The studio is in a good location in a large town. Suki works by herself doing all the job roles in the business, so is always very busy. Suki already works five days a week and often has to turn bookings down as she cannot fit them into her schedule. Suki's recording studio is closed two days a week when she takes time off.

13 Suki covers several job roles in her business.
Identify **one** responsibility for each of these job roles.

Studio manager

Recording engineer

Mastering engineer

A successful local recording studio helped BTEC students learn about the music industry with a virtual tour and feedback about their bright ideas for developing the business.



The mushroom studio.

Improvements:

- > Try and get a few more famous people in to the studio to publicise your studio.
- > Open days or workshops for colleges and secondary schools so teens can get an idea of their job for the future.
- > You could do 1 to 1 sessions with artists so people understand the basics of the studio.
- > Offer work experience.
- > Try and reach out to primary schools and music s
- > Advertise the studio.

