



Excellence & Opportunity

# Year 9 to KS4 Transition Support

## *BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice.*



### Transition Project

In preparation for the start of your course in September, you will need to complete a research project on African Drumming.

Each week, you will build up a section of your project.

You can submit the final product in any format (e.g. PowerPoint, Word document etc.) but it must contain all of the information you have found out in each task.

#### Week 1: The roots of African music.

Over the course of Years 10 and 11, you will be exploring a wide variety of music. The journey begins with traditional African music.

#### Task 1: Find the answers to the following questions.

1. a) What is the role of music in African culture?  
b) Name the purposes it has been traditionally used for.
2. a) What does it mean to say that music is passed on through an aural tradition?  
b) How is this different from the way we teach new music in Western culture?

#### Task 2: Comparing traditional music.

Scottish Mouth Music is another example of music taught through an aural tradition.

Listen to the clip below and write a paragraph comparing it to the African music you have listened to in your research for task 1. How is it similar? How is it different? Think about the instruments, the tempo etc.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zgjk7h>

#### Week 2: Instruments of Africa

#### Task: Create a factfile.

Research and create a factfile containing information about the seven instruments in the list below. You must include images of each instrument, information about what they are made of, how they are played, and, if possible, a link to a YouTube clip of the instrument being played.

1. djembe
2. dundun
3. kagan
4. kidi
5. balafon
6. kora
7. mbira



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### Week 3: Talking Drums

#### **Task: Research Talking Drums.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHFIJZm2dzw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbMMw-88eT4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uB9xzYL1DU>

Watch the three YouTube videos about how drums are used in Africa.

Write an extended paragraph explaining what they are used for and how.

Give as much detail as you can and use other sources to supplement your research.

### Week 4: Key words

#### **Task: Create a glossary.**

Look at the key terms listed below.

You need to find out what they mean in the context of music and, in particular, African drumming and create a Glossary. Where possible, include links to examples of each key term.

If you don't know what a glossary is, you will need to research that too and present your work in an appropriate way.

aural tradition	folk music	soloist
bass	ostinato	tempo
call and response	pentatonic scale	texture
cross-rhythm	pitch	timbre
cyclic rhythms	polyrhythm	timeline
diatonic	rhythm	tone
drum head	slap	yodel

### Week 5: The Master Drummer

#### **Task 1: Research and write up your answers to the following questions.**

Who is the Master Drummer in African drumming?

What is their role?

#### **Task 2: Write up an interview.**

Choose one of the master drummers below and research their life and music.

Using the information you find, write up an imaginary interview between you and your chosen master drummer. It must contain at least 8 questions.

- Bolokada Conde
- Mare Sanogo
- Abdoulaye Diakite
- Soungalo Coulibaly
- Babatunde Olatunji
- Yamadu Bani Dunbia



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- Mamady Keïta
- Mustapha Tettey Addy
- Famoudou Konaté
- Drissa Kone
- Okyerema Asante
- Doudou N'Diaye Rose
- Sikiru Adepoye

### Week 6: African Singing

So far, you have focussed on drums and other African instruments. However, African music also has a rich vocal tradition.

#### Task 1: Find meanings of key terms

Go to the link below. Find the 6 new key terms (written in **bold**) and add them and their meanings to your Glossary from Week 4.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z2xbgk7/revision/5>

#### Task 2: Research African Singing.

Read through the information on the link again and watch the embedded videos.  
Now create a mind map detailing what you have learned about African singing.

#### Task 3: Compare with other types of vocal music.

Listen to this example of an English Madrigal sung by the King's Singers.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJ7VirCScp0&list=PLIisNAVp\\_EZINiqZrQJpl5Akebwo3xcO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJ7VirCScp0&list=PLIisNAVp_EZINiqZrQJpl5Akebwo3xcO)

Write 3-5 full sentences explaining how you think it is different and/or similar to the African singing you have listened to.

### Week 7: African Fusion

Many musicians across the world have been inspired by African music and have looked to fuse it with music from other genres. You are going to explore one example of this, where musicians have used elements from both African and Celtic music to create a piece of African Fusion.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOATs0vNVmQ>

#### Task 1: Exploring instrumentation

List the traditional African instruments that you can see and hear and make a separate list of the traditional Irish instruments you can hear.

#### Task 2: Researching African Fusion

Using your own independent research, find 2 other types of African Fusion music, where African music has been fused with different genres than Celtic music.

For each one, write down the name of the group, the genre of music it fused with African music and include a link to one of their songs.



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### Suggested Reading or Viewing:

Weeks 1-7 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z2xbgk7/revision/1>

Weeks 1-7 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zhsny4j/revision/1>

Week 3 [https://www.softschools.com/facts/music\\_instruments/talking\\_drum\\_facts/3013/](https://www.softschools.com/facts/music_instruments/talking_drum_facts/3013/)

Week 5 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master\\_drummer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master_drummer)

Week 6 <https://www.mindmeister.com/blog/students-guide-to-mind-mapping/>

Week 7 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afro\\_Celt\\_Sound\\_System](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afro_Celt_Sound_System)

Week 7 <https://www.afroceltsoundsystem.org.uk/>

Week 7 <https://www.irelandbeforeyoudie.com/10-iconic-instruments-used-in-traditional-irish-music/>

Week 7 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z3dqhyc/articles/zr4fscw>

Week 7 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zvw8jty/revision/1>