



Music Technology Workshops

Towards the end of the Summer term I had the opportunity of leading two sessions for more able pupils from South Gloucestershire primary schools. Primary pupils are often very sophisticated in their use and understanding of ICT. Many have access to one or more computers at home, mobile phones, and various play stations; they play games at home with fantastic visuals and are very familiar with DVD's and the internet. All this has big implications for the way that schools deliver ICT and Music Technology.

The aim of the workshops was to introduce pupils to composing using ICT.

The students began by composing a four-measure A Section to a song and eventually finished with the structure ABA. When their song was complete, the students were given two drum loops and two guitar loops from Apple's software, *GarageBand*. (<http://www.apple.com/ilife/>), which they added to their composition.

When this was complete, the work was exported from the *GarageBand* file to Apple's *iTunes* and pupils were able to burn their compositions onto CD.

All students went back to their schools proudly holding their CDs, eager to play them to family and friends.

The positive feedback received from the pupils reveal some of their favourite moments.

"I liked making the tune"

"I learned about ostinatos and how to fit different sounds together"

"The best bit was when everyone played their music"

"I learn about ABA Form"

"I enjoyed mixing tracks on the computer and burning it onto a CD"

"We liked the whole morning and wanted to stay longer. We liked listening to the music at the end and we liked the snacks!"



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