

TASK 2 - Learning & Skills Development Plan

a. Assessment of Current Knowledge & Skills

| | Actions Needed | When |
|---|---|---------|
| <p>Strengths: I am able to meet deadlines and manage my time well. I am able to be a team worker and give ideas and listen to my colleagues and put their ideas first. I am confident in operating a studio and being a FOH utilising different types of cables and being able to identify and use them correctly. I am able to identify the different types of mic types and their uses, i.e. Dynamic and Condenser and I'm able to use them in the correct way i.e. micing up a drum kit. My main strength is my use of bandlab (DAW) and this is what helped me create a fantastic podcast.</p> | <p>I have matured a lot over my time at school and with this in mind I will need to make sure that keep the same focus and determination and I don't go back to my old habits of always getting distracted and making sure my work and professionalism come first.</p> <p>I need to get more experience different microphones in a practical studio. I only had access to the microphones available to the school which was limiting and my short exploration into YouTube showed me that there is far more on offer. I will also need to further explore the possibility of using an electric drumkit as I only have experience of an acoustic kit. It will be good to have the experience of both.</p> | 4/06/22 |
| <p>Weaknesses: One of my weaknesses is using a digital mixer. I enjoy being able to save shows as pre-sets as you don't need to keep writing your settings on masking tape like you do an analogue mixer however fully understanding how to use the sends / returns and built in effects is something that I am not confident with.</p> <p>Another one would be that sometimes I am easily distracted and sometimes I can become rather chatty if I'm set off. I also haven't got much knowledge of writing a CV as I have only written a little one but I need to know how to do one for the future in a few months time.</p> | <p>Overtime I will get more and more confident with it and I don't think it will take me long especially if I keep using it just so i can get used to it. I feel with the teaching I get I will be able to use it in the near future. To ensure this happens I have already agreed to be the sound man for the Year 11 leavers assembly and I've started rehearsing with the year 11 acts adding effects and saving their shows as pre-sets. I will also experiment with the digital EQ more and to do this I will ask one of the performers to have a long sound check for me.</p> <p>With me getting distracted easily it won't take a lot as my fellow pupils really do help me with my work and if I do get distracted they get me back on track very easily and they are always there to help with any work.</p> <p>With the CV writing it won't take long for me to do as I will be allowed to write one which will obviously help me for the future.</p> | 4/6/22 |

b. Aspirations & Goals

My aspiration is to be a Podcast host. This has been a keen interest of mine since creating my own podcast and radio show. I am excited to get started and improve my skills. With improving my skills I will need to get stuck in and give 100% to this and not back out or get bored. If I want to get better I will need to look into how to get my podcasts made and edited quickly as mine took almost 6 weeks which is not an acceptable time as I'd like to be able to do this in under 48 hours. This has been a very exciting project for me to do as when I first did podcasts in my Year 13 class I really enjoyed doing this I enjoyed the setting up and the actual conversation as it didn't really feel staged as I was able to have a good genuine chat with my guest and talk about things that I personally like.

My main aspiration is definitely to become a big podcaster that has recorded many podcasts and have got millions of views and a big following, this is my big main goal as this is a low chance of happening but this can be met if I do the correct things like meeting my target audience and making sure people can get involved and like what I do.

To meet my ambition I will aim for the following goals

Goal 1: Learn a new software – Software is constantly evolving with new concepts and ideas coming through all the time. It's important to be aware of these.

Goal 2: Expand my podcast setup – The better my equipment is the better the sound quality will be

Goal 3: Get used to brand new equipment

Goal 4: Interact with audience – New audiences will be more interesting and attract new listeners

I would also want to expand on my setup as this will be an important thing in this kind of industry, This will ensure that I can have some of the best quality equipment, To then have the best quality podcast, this will include audio and the editing software this will make it smoother.

c. Knowledge & Skills Required to attain Goals

| | Knowledge Required | Skill Required |
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| Goal 1: Learn a new software | Although experienced in Bandlab I think an investment into Cubase or garage will be good to see what they can offer. I will use this to edit and add background music to my podcasts to give them more of a professional feeling. | I will need a decent set of IT skills (installing new software as a download) as this could be difficult as it is a brand-new piece of software and I will need to check that my laptop meets the minimum system requirements. |
| Goal 2: Expand my setup | I will need to ensure I know the best equipment for the best prices as I am a starter podcaster so I will need to make sure I'm not overspending on equipment when I'm not a big timer. Things like researching the best microphone and idea plugins like compression will be ideal. | I have been using microphones so I know I'll need a dynamic microphone for the best quality sound but obviously I'll need a few depending on the number of guests I plan on inviting on my show. I may have to use a condenser with an omnidirectional polar pattern until I can afford each dynamic mic. |
| Goal 3: Get used to brand new equipment | I would have already known how to use my previous equipment (DAW and equipment) so that will be good knowledge to have when getting used to brand new things. This means my new equipment will be quite easy to use and figure out. | I will need to be able to use this equipment well, so set up skills will be important as when unboxing, putting the equipment up and actually trying to connect it to the software or connected to my inputs. But as I've already mentioned I already have experience here and most DAW have very similar interfaces. |
| Goal 4: Interact with audience | I already know how to talk to an audience as I am used to doing a practice podcast in front of a class and I am able to take questions. I will need to learn about the guests that come on my podcast so I know their career path. | My skills will need to be that I can carry a conversation, so I will need to have good conversational skills which I already have. The skills I will need to have will be conversational skills and I will need to write a decent plan for what we will be talking about. |

d. How current skills taught will contribute towards Goals

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| Goal 1: Learn a new software | I have extensive experience using Bandlab, Soundation and Audacity so getting used to Cubase will be a relatively simple process. I will set aside some time though because I have not actually installed a DAW before (the above are web-based DAWs) so I will need to use my skills in A level ICT to ensure the software is installed correctly with all right drivers assigned. |
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| Goal 2: Expand my setup | This is really referring to getting new microphones. I understand the difference between dynamic and condenser mics and will consider all polar patterns and frequency responses before purchasing. I will also need an audio interface that has 4 or more inputs. This has been taught to me when I completed the studio techniques unit and the podcast recording unit with school and RSL. I will also need to consider the types of microphone stand as this needs to be out of the guests way so they do not knock it – something that happened lots during the recording of my own podcast. |
| Goal 3: Get used to brand new equipment | I will need to get used to my new equipment. I will be able to have a little idea as I have used lots of different pieces of equipment so this will help. I will create a few podcasts on my own. The idea will be that I do not release them to the public and make them really short to test and experiment with what they sound like before I settle on my new sound. |
| Goal 4: Interact with audience | Build on my good communication skills to meet new people and invite them to be on my podcast. Also reach out to other local podcasters and be on their podcasts to see what I can learn and build a network. |

e. Schedule Review of Progress Towards Goals

| | Review Date: | Review Date: | Review Date: | Review Date: |
|--|--|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Goal 1: Learn a new software | March 22 Explore garage band | June 22 Explore Soundation | Sept 22 Cubase elements 12 | Dec 22 Cubase Artist (If elements was limiting) |
| Goal 2: Expand my setup | Aug 22 Podcast pro microphone | | Aug 23 Acoustic / Soundproof ready room / studio | |
| Goal 3: Get used to brand new equipment | April 22 | July 22 | Oct 22 | Jan 23 |
| Goal 4: Interact with audience | March 22 Introduce new audience at least once per month | April 22 | May 22 | June 22 |
| Goal 5: Have guests on podcast | March 22 | April 22 | May 22 | June 22 |