



musicfirst lighthouse

Real Stories of Success in Music Education

Integrating Technology into Music Education at British International Schools

Welcome to our MusicFirst Lighthouse series

Inspiring success stories in the real world, capturing examples of how institutions have implemented online learning into their curriculum using innovative technology and creative thinking.



The Context

This case study explores the experiences of Jane Humberstone, a highly skilled music educator, as she transitioned between two international schools in different regions of Asia.

It highlights the challenges, opportunities and successes she encountered while implementing MusicFirst's solutions, and the differences in technology integration and teaching between the schools.



About Jane

Jane has an extensive background in music education, having spent 30 years in East Sussex where she held various roles, including 17 years as Head of Music at Cavendish School in Eastbourne and Curriculum Development Manager for East Sussex Music Service.

She also taught at primary level, mentored trainee teachers, and was Project Manager for the highly successful 'Ready for School' project with incredible results for Rising Five, providing for early years children with speech and language issues. Following an extensive and rewarding career in the UK, Jane transitioned to the international school scene starting at the International School Manila in 2020.



The Schools

British School Manila

The International School Manila (ISM) is a prestigious private international school located in Bonifacio Global City, Philippines. The school offers an international curriculum, with GCSE and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme available for high school students.

Technology and Infrastructure*







BYOD Policy**	Students and teachers had their own devices.
Resources	Each classroom teacher was provided with a laptop, and there was an extensive suite of music rooms and practice rooms including flexible spaces for teaching using ICT, large ensembles and individual instrumental lessons.
Classroom Teaching	Two dedicated teachers teaching ages 4 to 18 with a broad curriculum including the iGCSE and IB exam syllabuses for years 10 to 13 (ages 14-18).
Support	A team of ten instrumental teachers working part-time.
Curriculum	Jane was able to design her own curriculum based on the British system and inject her enthusiasm and personality into her teaching.

Implementation of MusicFirst

- **Adoption:** When Jane joined the school, Focus on Sound and Noteflight were not being used so, despite only one year's previous experience with them, she quickly introduced them as an alternative to installed software applications, which proved an extremely positive move.
- **Advocacy:** She quickly integrated Focus on Sound into her teaching and subsequently advocated for the MusicFirst Classroom as the technology solution to further develop what was already a thriving music department.
- **Classroom and Instrumental:** Alongside the adoption of software in the classroom, she introduced AuraliaFirst and MusitionFirst to her instrumental teachers, who integrated them moving forwards.



Software solution

-  MusicFirst Classroom
-  Soundtrap
-  Noteflight
-  Focus on Sound
-  AuraliaFirst
-  MusitionFirst



Regent's International School, Bangkok

Regent's International School, Bangkok is a well-known international school in Thailand, offering education from early years to pre-university, a global family of premium schools. The school follows the English National Curriculum and offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme for senior students.


Technology and Infrastructure


BYOD Policy	Similar to Manila, with students bringing their own devices.
Resources	Limited to one desktop per classroom, contributing to technology integration being more challenging.
Classroom Teaching	Three dedicated teachers teaching across year groups R to 13 (ages 4 to 18) with iGCSE and IB in years 10-13.
Support	A small team of instrumental teachers mainly dedicated to the primary phase.
Curriculum	Jane continues to design the curriculum broadly around the British Curriculum but is constantly reinventing and innovating.



Software solution

 **MusicFirst Classroom**

 **Soundtrap**

 **Noteflight**

 **Focus on Sound**

Supporting our students from year 7 to 13, **Noteflight** and **Soundtrap** provide industry-standard tools for composition. **Focus on Sound** aids student learning from basic concepts to the complex analyses of set works and theoretical understanding at iGCSE. Its integration with **Google Classroom** and the ability to create custom assessments make it an essential part of our music curriculum."

Implementation of MusicFirst

- **Advocacy for Technology:** Jane leveraged her experience at Manila to advocate for the adoption of MusicFirst at Regent's, emphasising its benefits for a BYOD environment.
- **Curriculum Integration:** The platform is used extensively to support the iGCSE and IB curriculum and as a supplementary resource for Key Stage 3.

Impact

Learning

Students demonstrated improved engagement and understanding of music theory and composition. The flexibility of cloud-based tools enabled personalised learning, catering to different learning styles and paces.

Professional Development

Using MusicFirst allowed Jane to stay current with educational technology trends, enhancing her teaching practice.

Teaching

During her journey through both schools, Jane's approach shifted from traditional methods to integrating digital tools, which allowed for more interactive and engaging lessons. The ability to set and review assignments digitally made the assessment process more efficient.

Inclusivity

MusicFirst allows students the freedom to work at home or in school and on their own devices. This flexibility allows Jane to set work at different levels for different groups.

Conclusion

Jane's experiences highlight the transformative potential of technology in music education, particularly in BYOD environments.

While challenges in school remain, especially regarding infrastructure and support, MusicFirst offers significant benefits in terms of accessibility, data collection, and student engagement. Jane's experiences underscore the importance and impact of striving to successfully integrate technology into the curriculum.

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Contact Us

For further information about MusicFirst
or how your school can become a
Lighthouse Institution, contact us today.

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“
MusicFirst has been an invaluable
solution, alleviating the need
for expensive software, computer
suites and maintenance.”



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