



# musicfirst lighthouse

Real Stories of Success in Music Education

## Unlocking students' potential with technology

### Warlingham School & Sixth Form College

**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.



Warlingham School  
& Sixth Form College

# The Context

Warlingham School and Sixth Form College is a mixed, 11-18 school and college on the Surrey/Croydon borders, bringing together a range of rich and culturally diverse communities. 'Wide Horizons, High Aspirations' encapsulates the ethos of the school with its ambition to make the core values of Courage, Commitment, and Kindness a reality every day.

Led by Head of Music Nick Duff, the Music Department aims to provide opportunities and experiences that will enable students to grow into confident and inspired young musicians who enjoy their time at school and leave with the life-long skills, experiences and values needed to face the challenges that lie ahead of them within the music industry.

Music performance on a range of instruments and composition through the use of professional standard software is actively encouraged, which has helped invigorate the curriculum making it accessible and achievable for all.



**Nick Duff**  
Head of Music

Following a Degree in Music & Education Psychology from Surrey University and a PGCE at Kingston University, Nick started his teaching career at Fullbrook Secondary School which was where he really learnt his craft as a music teacher and became fully involved in all aspects of musical life in the school.

It was also here where he had the opportunity to build a music studio from the ground up, standing him in good stead for regenerating technology facilities in his future schools. After working his way up the ranks to Head of Faculty in an inner-city London school, Nick took a sideways move to become more closely involved in SEND students, exercising his passion for helping children with special needs and English as an alternative language whilst breaking down barriers to accessing music.

Nine years ago Nick moved to Warlingham School & Sixth Form College where he is now Head of Music. The department is now thriving with a challenging and adventurous curriculum offer supported by three music teachers and a large number of peripatetic staff. Fundamental to his teaching style is a belief that every child can access Music, and every child has opportunities to express themselves, enjoy individual and collaborative music making and succeed in a supportive and safe environment. Central to the ideology of the department is the use of technology. Nick maintains an active interest in performing and composing himself to maintain and develop his own musicianship.



# Challenges

On joining Warlingham School & Sixth Form College, from the outset it was clear to Nick that technology was not what it could be both in terms of facilities and the way in which it had previously been integrated into the curriculum.

More was needed both to satisfy his desire to get all students fully engaged in music and to streamline his teaching practices.

Time is a precious thing for any music teacher and being in a large school with such a breadth of extra-curricular activities, nine peripatetic staff to manage, and then KS3, 4 and 5 studying music, Nick needed a solution which would give students a richer and more exciting way to experience music in and out of the classroom.



Focus on Sound Pro has become an integral part of the learning journey both in and out of the classroom."



# Discovery

For many years, Nick had built his own resources with tools such as PowerPoint and Google forms, searching for recordings and videos to make them more interactive. Via recommendation and after exploring a variety of free and paid resources, Nick discovered Focus on Sound Pro. Could this be the answer to his challenges?

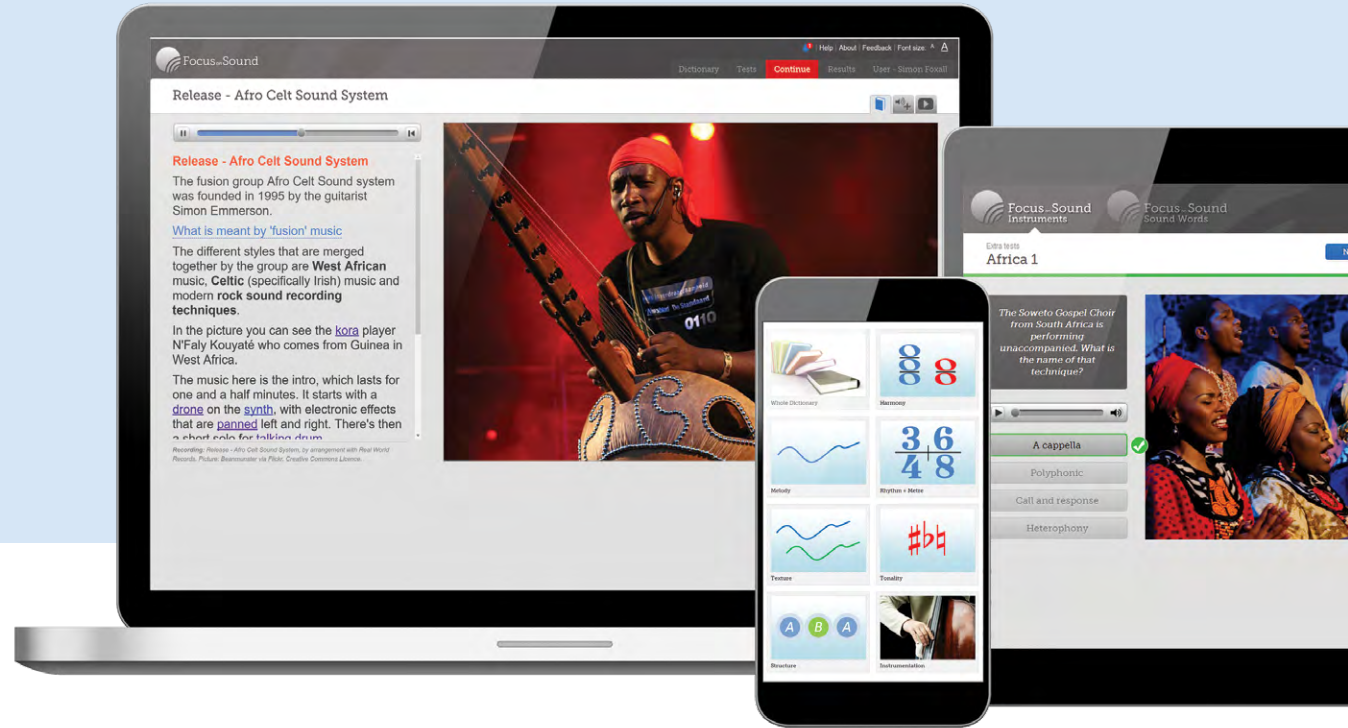
Following the restructure of the department's IT facilities including purchasing new hardware, it certainly was. The vision was now becoming reality.



## Focus on Sound Pro

### Features:

- Encyclopedia of instruments and terminology.
- Packed with videos, audio, and learning advice.
- Structured lessons with KS3, GCSE and A Level content.
- Unlimited randomized tests and self-marking quizzes.
- Comprehensive results system.
- Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams integration.
- Lesson, Test and Content creation tools.



**Fabulous – such a powerful tool for both lessons and homework. The impact upon the students has been marked. They enjoy the topics and find it a brilliant ‘confidence builder’!**



# The Impact

Focus on Sound Pro became the building blocks to deliver more structured lessons and produce enjoyable and meaningful homework. Furthermore, it served to relieve many of the stresses and strains of trying to effectively show student progress without spending hours painstakingly working with spreadsheets and other online systems.

Efficiency, Engagement and Accessibility encapsulate the impact Focus on Sound Pro has had on teaching and learning music at Warlingham School & Sixth Form College.

Scheduling lessons, marking work, reporting progress, and creating new resources are just some of the things that has helped Nick as a teacher.

## Top 5 outcomes:

1

Students are far more stimulated and engaged in music at school

2

Striking improvement in behaviour during lessons

3

Students are more independent in their learning and demonstrated the urge to explore

4

More students are coming back into the department at lunch and after school

5

Students are completing tests numerous times outside the classroom without being asked to!



## We asked Nick...

Has Focus on Sound Pro changed the way you teach and students learn?

**“Yes, however it is important to emphasise that software such as Focus on Sound Pro is a tool to enhance teaching and learning, not replace it.**

**That’s where it really shines because the creators have understood this and delivered us a powerful product that is adaptable and allows teachers like me to teach my way supported by a reliable resource that I know my students love and will actually use on their own as well as with my guidance.”**

### Contact Us

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

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**Focus on Sound Pro is a resource for any music teacher but if you are a **one-person department**, it is a **MUST** and will transform your teaching.”**

Nick Duff, Head of Music – Warlingham School & Sixth Form College

