Welcome to the first part of the Music Technology Course: the 'Bridging Pack'.

The Music Technology Course covers using computers to record, edit and sequence music. Most of this will be done using popular music styles so the first things to do are to get comfortable with technology and popular music styles.

Opening the DAW* to Music Technology

1. **Download and start to use a music recording/sequencing package or DAW*[1].**

   a. Garage Band is a basic introduction and has a large amount of drag and drop content as well as allowing you to record and it comes free with apple computers.

   b. Bandlab by Sonar is a free online package for PC and available to download and surprisingly good (it was retailing at around £600 before going completely free online). https://www.bandlab.com/products/cakewalk

   c. Audacity works across Apple and PC products as well as Linux so is perhaps the best first experiment if you're not sure what machine you will have in the future. https://www.audacityteam.org/

   d. There are many others including PreSonus Studio One Prime, Cubase LE, ProTools- First and Ableton Live 9 Lite.

The key thing is to have a DAW and be actively using it to record, programme and edit music. Even if this is limited to you playing chopsticks or trying to programme Twinkle Twinkle it is well worth having a go and getting some projects underway.

If you are gaining experience and wish to start more complicated projects, try importing some existing recording 'stems' from professional recordings there are many online, try this as a starting point:

https://behindthespeakers.com/300-free-multitracks/
https://skiomusic.com (a remix sharing site)
https://splice.com (a remix site with contests)
Or simply search up the track/artist or label and see what is out there, it may well be that the label has put the stems out there for education use so as long as you aren't making money on it you would be able to sue these for mixing practice.

EQ

2. **EQ can be the difference between a muddy or shrill mix and one that sounds great.**

EQ is the amount of certain frequencies that are being produced. Have a look into mixing tips for different EQ settings such ass a Bass heavy RnB mix or a light timbred Rock 'n' Roll track.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxrL94SEoDo a brief overview of EQ
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOlr5gMJ2zo is a good introduction to EQ

FX

3. **Start to research and explore FX used in popular music styles.**

Popular styles use a multitude of FX to treat music once it has been recorded. Try to put a definition together and get a rough understanding of:

- Amp simulators
- Auto-tune
- Chorus
- Distortion
- Flanger
- Pan
- Reverb
- Tremolo/Wah

Here is a guide to FX in the mix, albeit in a live PA setup:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAJb5j3rqqk

There are thousands of websites and video tutorials out there and some channels are worth taking a wander around.

BE AWARE THAT SOME RECORD PRODUCERS MAY OCCASIONALLY USE BAD LANGUAGE. WE DO NOT APPROVE OF OR CONDONE THIS

Andrew Huang: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdcemy56JtVTrsFIOoqvV8g
Andrew sets challenges for other producers and DJ's and has an entertaining YouTube channel.

Jamie Liddell: http://jamielidellmusic.com/
Jamie interviews people and provides some in-depth commentary on music technology related subjects. His podcast 'Hanging out with the Audiophiles' is worth an occasional listen.

General Websites to refer to:

Bedroom Producers Blog https://bedroomproducersblog.com/
Music Technology Magazine https://www.musictech.net/
Sound on Sound Magazine https://www.soundonsound.com/

MusicPro Tutorials https://www.youtube.com/user/musicprotutorials/playlists have technique tutorials for various DAW.