Home-School Learning Collaboration – Music

ERDINGTON ACADEMY

Topics in this cycle: Music: Electronic Dance Music	Taught: Spring 2	Year Group: 9
Key knowledge/concepts to be learnt ('Tell me about….')		**Websites/blogs/YouTube links and further reading to deepen and consolidate learning**

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• **How can I explain the relevance of the elements of music to peers?** Identify the elements of music, and explain what these words mean; Express an opinion about what music is and does. • **Can write about dance music using musical language from listening to four contrasting genres?** Listen with 'increasing discrimination and awareness' (ref. National Curriculum for Music - Key Stage 3), identifying instruments/sounds, features of the music and offer opinions on the music you hear. • **Can you identify the notes of C major, D minor, F major and E minor chords?** identify the letter names of the notes on a music keyboard, explain what a chord is and how it is formed and what the two main types of chords sound like. • **How accurately can you play and record the four chords into the DAW?** Use a MIDI keyboard to practice playing drum parts and a bass line, then record these into the DAW, editing the notes if required to ensure they are accurate. • **How accurately can you play and record drum patterns and a melodic bass line into a DAW?** use a MIDI keyboard to practice playing a melodic line, then record this into the DAW, editing the notes if required to ensure they are accurate. You will also be able to find appropriate library loops to add into your work. • **How accurately can you play and record a melodic line into the DAW and select appropriate loops to complete the piece of music?** Learn to record melodic lines into the DAW first accurately (and edited) Select appropriate dance loops and add to build the texture of the piece of music.	Electronic Music - BBC Electronic music - KS3 Music - BBC Bitesize - BBC Bitesize History: How EDM was made on micro-computers: Making electronic dance music in 1990 with budget home computer - YouTube 90s DAW: Café Del Mar - Atari Notator – The Arrange Window Cafe Del Mar - Atari ST Cubase - YouTube What is "four-to-the floor"? Four-on-the-floor - that disco beat! - YouTube The components of EDM: 5 Essential EDM Sounds and How to Make Them (sweetwater.com) A walk through the decades – the history of EDM: The History of Electronic Dance Music -- A Journey Through The Decades (thedjrevolution.com)

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Key Vocabulary and Definitions To Be Learnt	
Loops	Like ostinato or riffs, these are short musical ideas which repeat.
Mixing	The process of blending layered tracks so that they balance well.
EQ	Equalisation – between the frequencies (Low, Low mid, High mid, high) etc.
Panning	Moving the sound between left to right across the sound field.
Reverb	An effect which simulates large spaces such as hall, tunnel, church, cathedral etc. Adds depth to mixes.
Reverse (audio)	To reverse the playback of a track. Often used for cymbals etc.
Click track	Provides an electronic pulse to record to – like a metronome.
MIDI	Musical Instrument Digital Interface – enables music technology to send and record notes as events. Essentially, a programming language for music.
Quantize	Forces the events to fit to a grid based on the selected note value. E.g., eighth notes forces the music to move to the nearest quaver in the grid.
Chord sequence	Chords are placed in an order. This is often reinforced through repetition.
Drop	The section of a track that usually follows a break and a build. Usually when the rhythm and bass at its strongest point.
Piano Roll	The area of a DAW's software where MIDI notes can be edited is called the piano roll. The X-axis depicts time, and the Y-axis the notes on a keyboard.
Soft-Synth:	A software version of a synthesiser (generally included in DAWs such as Mixcraft). They are programmable and are capable of creating completely-new sounds.
BPM	Beats-per-minute. This is used to specify, set or measure the tempo in all kinds of music.
MIDI Keyboard	This is a note-input device that is in the form of a piano keyboard. It sends MIDI signals – many do so via USB or a 5-pin MIDI port.

What Will The Assessment Look Like?

Quality of musical outcome – Students will be marked on their technical, constructive, and expressive work.

End of Unit test: 30 minutes

- Short answer questions
- Multiple choice
- Extended writing

Family Learning Opportunities

Use an app that uses loops and an arrange window such as Bandlab, Soundtrap or Garageband.
Try to create your own piece of Electronic Dance music. Remember that you need a four-on-the-floor rhythm to base it on, and that you need to vary the loops over time to maintain interest.

Listen to 2 pieces of Electronic Dance Music from the mid 1990s. Create a poster, presentation, blog or review comparing the musical features of both extracts. Try to differentiate between the composition and production in each.