Knowledge Organiser: Music Theory Introduction
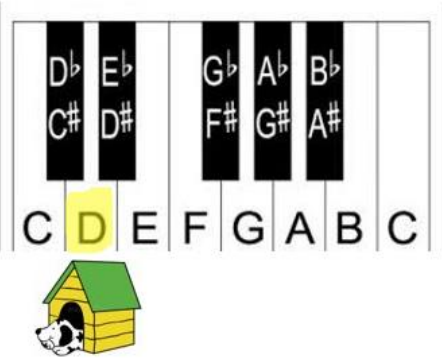
Learning to read MUSIC

PITCH
(high/low notes)

The notes are either on the line or in the space

Notes on the lines — E G B D F

Notes in the spaces — F A C E

Treble Clef   Stave (the 5 lines)

RHYTHM
(long/short notes)

	Semibreve	4 beats
	Minim	2 beats
	Crotchet	1 beat
	Quaver	½ beat
	Semiquaver	¼ beat

Finding the notes on the
KEYBOARD

The dog is in the kennel
(D is between two black notes)

Db Eb Gb Ab Bb
C# D# F# G# A#

C D E F G A B C

**Musical
ELEMENTS**
(to describe and build music)

Pitch	High / Low
Rhythm	Long / Short
Tempo	Speed
Dynamics	Volume
Texture	Layers of sound
Timbre	Type of sound
Tonality	Major/minor

Exmouth Community College
ACADEMY TRUST

Jazz and Musicals

George Gershwin	Rodgers and Hammerstein	Lucy Simon	Stephen Sondheim	Kristen Anderson-Lopez	Claude-Michel Schonberg	Andrew Lloyd Webber
An American in Paris	The King and I	The Secret Garden	Sweeney Todd	Frozen	Les Miserables	Cats
	South Pacific					
		Doctor Zhivago	Into the Woods	Coco		School of Rock
Porgy and Bess					Miss Saigon	

Jazz

- Improvisation – composition in real time
- Swing – uneven rhythm
- Syncopation – off beat
- Virtuosic playing – very technically demanding
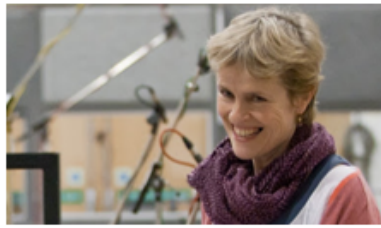- Complex chord sequences
- Duke Ellington
- Miles Davis

Musicals

- Music in a popular style
- Solo songs, duets, choruses and ensembles
- Orchestra or band accompaniment
- Spoken dialogue
- Dance sequences, stage spectacles and magnificent costumes

John Williams
Star Wars
Indiana Jones
Harry Potter
Jaws

Rachel Portman
Chocolat
One Day
The Cider House Rules
Oranges are not the only fruit

Howard Shore
The Lord of the Rings
Hugo
The Hobbit
Big

Film Music

Danny Elfman
Alice in Wonderland
Batman
Edward Scissorhands
Beetlejuice

Leitmotif	Musical theme for a character
Ostinato	Repeated musical phrase
Cue Sheet	Breakdown of all the music used in a film and where it appears
Underscore	Background music
Synchronisation	Timing of sounds with actions

Hans Zimmer
Gladiator
Inception
Interstellar
The Last Samurai