SUBJECT: MUSIC PRODUCTION

Year Group	**YEAR 10**					
Rationale	During the fourth year of our Music curriculum pupils will follow the **Level 2 NCFE Technical Award in Music Technology**. They will use Cubase music production software to create and develop a piece of dance music, analysing stylistic elements of dance sub-genres and reviewing the technical and creative process. Pupils will plan and undertake a recording session using multi-track mixing skills to create a mixdown of their recording. Pupils will develop skills in operating a Digital Audio Workstation creatively using audio, MIDI, hardware and editing tools, reflecting industry skills.					
	Autumn Term 1	**Autumn Term 2**	**Spring Term 1**	**Spring Term 2**	**Summer Term 1**	**Summer Term 2**
Topic/Unit	**U02 Creating Music**	**U02 Creating Music**	**U03 Studio Recording**	**U03 Studio Recording**	**Preparation for Y10 Exam/ U03 Studio Recording**	**U01 Using a DAW**
Knowledge	**Structure:** popular song format, intro, verse, chorus, breakdown. **Melody:** riff, sequence, diatonic, chromatic. **Rhythm:** ostinato, syncopation, 4-to-the-floor, time signatures. **Harmony:** 8 bar chord sequence, major, minor. **Instrumentation:** synthesiser (VStation), drum machine (Groove Agent)	**Styles:** Dance, Jazz, Rock. **Dance sub-genres:** House, Trance, Techno, Dubstep. **Instrument technology:** electric guitar, synthesisers, samplers, drum machines. **Consumer formats:** vinyl, CD, mp3, streaming. **Effects:** reverb, delay, distortion, filters. **Volume & panning** **Audio export:** wave file.	**Health and safety:** exposure to noise, display screens, trip hazards. **Microphones & DI:** dynamic, condenser, polar pattern, frequency response, placement. **Audio-interfaces:** audio in/out, connection to DAW. **Multi-track recorder:** software / hardware. **Monitoring:** control room, engineer, performer, speakers, headphones. **Planning:** time constraints.	**Recording:** optimisation of gain overdubbing. **Editing:** removal of unwanted audio. **Effects:** reverb, delay EQ. **Dynamics:** noise gate, compressors. **Balance:** volume of tracks. **Stereo field:** panning. **Monitoring:** speakers, headphones. **Automation:** volume, panning, effects.	Cubase music production software, drum kit microphone setup, health & safety, multi-track mixing, effects & processors, sound creation, microphones, musical styles.	**Computer hardware:** hard drives, USB devices, headphones, speakers. **MIDI controllers:** MIDI keyboard, pad controllers **Audio interface:** microphone / line input / audio outputs. **Track types:** audio, instrument & MIDI **Software instruments:** synthesisers, samplers.
Skills	**Sequencing:** Step input and layer up instrument parts, add appropriate sounds from synthesiser plug-ins, balance the volume, create a structure and add effects. Use of functions such as automation on effects, volume and panning.	**Independent research** **Evaluation:** focussed on use of elements, what was successful and what could be improved. **Mixing:** volume balance, panning, effects & audio export of practical work.	**Paired research:** finding appropriate information on microphones. **Planning:** apply technical terms and set appropriate timescale for studio recording sessions. **Recording:** correct use of microphones and placement for different instruments	**Mixing:** setting a working volume, dynamic processors, EQ, effects send channels, mastering, audio export.	**Exam technique:** answering short answer questions and listening questions. **Evaluation:** analysis of use of mixing techniques, what was successful and what could be improved.	**Independent research:** explaining hardware components and software functions. **Sequencing:** configuring software preferences, recording audio & MIDI, editing software instruments
Assess-ments	**LO2 Sequencing:** class discussion and peer	**LO1 Research** of 4 sub-genres of dance music.	**LO1 Plan a recording session:**	**LO3 Multi-track mixing:** 1st draft of mix	**Practice Written Exam**	**LO1 Research** on hardware components

	assessment of dance sequence draft 1.	**LO2 Sequencing:** final draft of dance sequence submitted as audio file. **LO3 Written evaluation** of dance piece submitted.	written assignment considering H&S, correct equipment, diagram of setup, microphone placement, audio interface, monitoring. **LO2 Recording Log:** Explanation & photos from each recording session of instruments in the studio.	submitted along with written log outlining and explaining the mixing process.	**Year 10 Exam:** - **Written Exam (30%)** sat during exam week **- Portfolio (70%)** U2 & U3 work submitted **LO4 Written evaluation** of multi-track mix submitted.	and software functions of a DAW **LO2 Sequencing:** draft 1 of using DAW musical project. **- U02 & U03 grades submitted (25%),** and external moderator visit to confirm and sign off grades