David Ross Education Trust
Broadening Horizons

Year 8 Unit 1
Harmony Focus

Harmony
Harmony is the word we use to describe the way two or more notes sound together. An example of harmony in action would be a choir singing different parts at the same time.
Triad – Three notes (the first, third and fifth) played at the same time.
Cadence – Music punctuation that brings an end to a phrase.
Tonic – the first note of a scale.
Dominant – The fifth notes of a scale.

Dynamics
Dynamics refer to the volume of the music. We use the following words to describe dynamics:
Pianissimo – very quiet
Piano – quiet
Mezzo piano – fairly quiet
Mezzo forte – kind of loud
Forte – loud
Fortissimo – very loud
Crescendo – quiet to loud, or to get louder.

Tempo
Tempo refers to the speed of the music. We have specific words to describe speed in music.

Allegro fast
Andante – at a walking pace
Lento – slow
Accelerando – to speed up
Ritardando – to slow down.

We also refer to bpm as the number of beats per minute. 120 beats per minute would work out to two beats per second.

Notes	Name	Rest
𝅝	Semibreve – 4 beats	𝄻
𝅗𝅥	Minim – 2 beats	𝄼
♩	Crotchet – 1 beat	𝄽
♪	Quaver – ½ of a beat	𝄾
𝅘𝅥𝅯	Semiquaver – ¼ of a beat	𝄿

Articulation
Articulation refers to how we play the music, or how the music is performed. It is how we make music more interested and add our own personal touches to it. Here are some examples of words that describe articulation:
Legato – to play smoothly
Staccato – to play the notes detached
Slur – when you slide / blur from one note to another.
Accent – when you emphasize a specific note.