

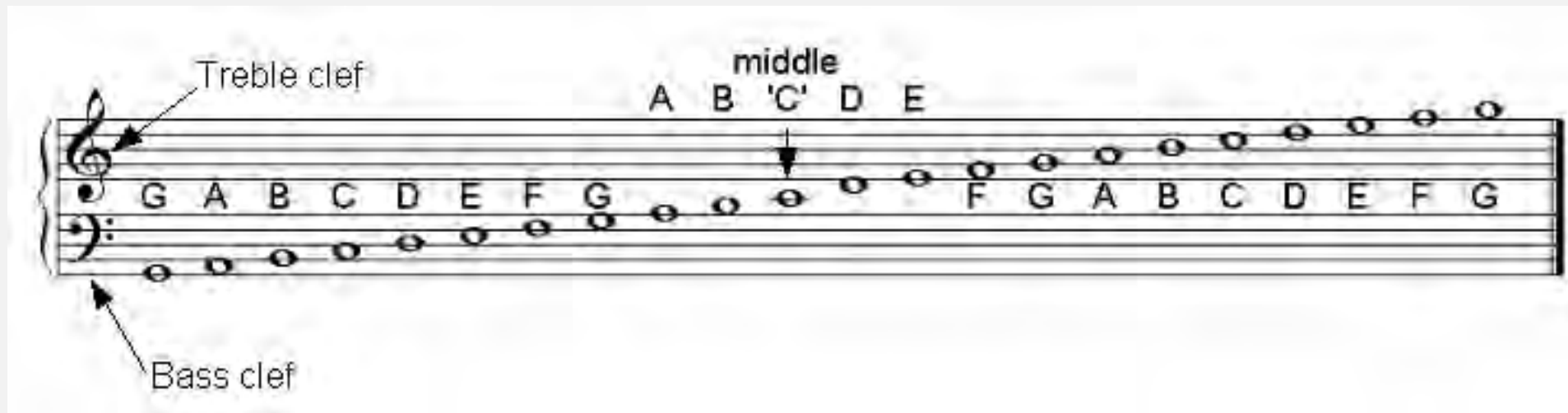
# MUSIC THEORY

Sixth Form Induction

## MUSIC THEORY

Task two of the induction task is to revise music theory. You should aim to learn the content of this PowerPoint. You will be tested on it in your first lesson in September.

# NOTATION



# ACCIDENTALS











accidentals



sharp flat natural

The image shows a musical staff with five lines. Three notes are placed on the second line from the bottom. The first note has a sharp symbol (#) above it. The second note has a flat symbol (b) above it. The third note has a natural symbol (♮) above it. Below each note is a label: 'sharp', 'flat', and 'natural' respectively. The word 'accidentals' is written in a box at the top left of the staff area.

# NOTE VALUES

Rests	Notes	Note	Beats
		Semi-Breve	4 Beats
		Minim	2 Beats
		Crotchet	1 Beat
		Quaver	1/2 Beat
		Semi-Quaver	1/4 Beat

# MUSICAL ELEMENTS

A number of elements affect how a piece of music is played and sounds.

## TIMBRE / TONE COLOUR



Timbre (or tone colour) is the term used to describe the particular sound quality of an instrument or voice.

## PITCH



Pitch is how high or low a note sounds.

## TEXTURE



The effect of melodies and harmonies together. A lot of sounds playing close together is a thick texture.

## DYNAMICS



Dynamics are how loud or quiet a piece of music is played.

## TEMPO



Tempo refers to how fast or slow a piece of music is played.

## DURATION



Duration is how long or short a note is.

## STRUCTURE



Structure is the overall plan of a piece of music.

## SILENCE



Silence (the gaps, rests and breaks) is also part of a piece of music.

# DYNAMIC MARKINGS

## dynamics

Term:	Symbol:	Effect:
<b>piano</b>	<b><i>p</i></b>	soft
<b>pianissimo</b>	<b><i>pp</i></b>	very soft
<b>mezzo piano</b>	<b><i>mp</i></b>	slightly soft
<b>forte</b>	<b><i>f</i></b>	loud
<b>fortissimo</b>	<b><i>ff</i></b>	very loud
<b>mezzo forte</b>	<b><i>mf</i></b>	slightly loud
<b>fortepiano</b>	<b><i>fp</i></b>	loud then soft
<b>sforzando</b>	<b><i>sfz</i></b>	sudden accent
<b>crescendo</b>		gradually louder
<b>diminuendo</b>		gradually softer

# BUILDING CHORDS

Chord Name	Chord Symbol	Formula	Example in C
Major	C	Root – 4 – 3	C E G
Minor	Cm	Root – 3 – 4	C E $\flat$ G
Seventh	C7	Root – 4 – 3 – 3	C E G B $\flat$
Major Seventh	Cmaj7	Root – 4 – 3 – 4	C E G B
Minor Seventh	Cm7	Root – 3 – 4 – 3	C E $\flat$ G B $\flat$
Augmented	Caug	Root – 4 – 4	C E G $\sharp$
Diminished	Cdim	Root – 3 – 3	C E $\flat$ G $\flat$

Example – To find out what notes are in the chord C7, you would start on C (as this is the root note), then add 4 semitones (E), then add 3 semitones (G), then add 3 semitones (B $\flat$ ).

Example - To find out what notes are in F $\sharp$ aug, start on F, move up 4 semitones (A), then move up 4 semitones (C $\sharp$ ).



For more detailed explanations on these topics, I highly recommend that you read **Rockschool Popular Music Theory (Debut to Grade 5)**. Not only will it help you with your transition task but it will be invaluable to you during the course.