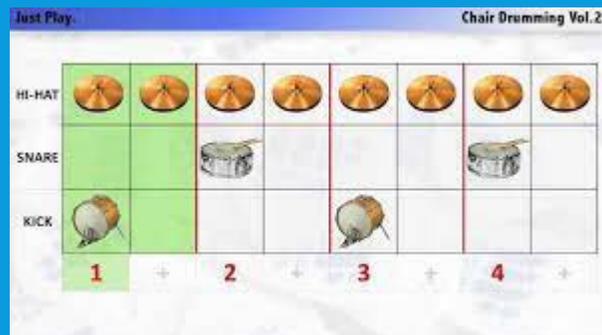




CHAIR DRUMMING

How it's engaging and how it has been covid friendly



TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Chair Drumming was a practical focus part of the topic rhythm and pulse, introduced to Year 7's. This topic was completed after they performed their bassline assessments. What makes this topic engaging is that pupils adapt to different rhythms and have fun at the same time – hitting their chairs!

As well as being successful for looking at rhythmic patterns, it also allowed pupils to demonstrate knowledge on a basic drum kit.

Resources for this topic include drum sticks, play mat and chair pad



WHAT MUSICAL CONTEXT CAN YOU INTRODUCE?

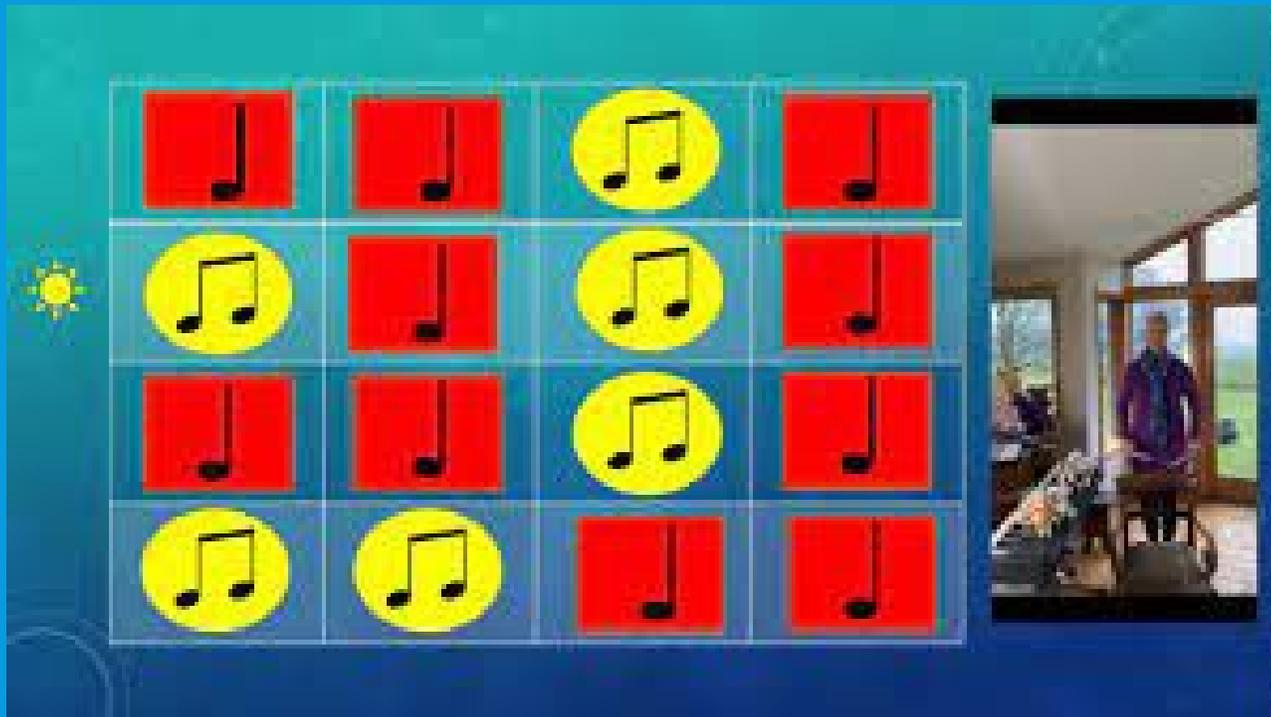
With new year 7's, it is important that you introduce the right information at the right time. As they have knowledge on the element, duration, it is suitable to look at note lengths and then link that to the chair drumming.

Example – Look at crotchets and be able to play crotchet rhythms using chair drumming



EXERCISE EXAMPLE – PRACTICAL TASK

To help pupils follow along with a rhythm, a rhythm grid is displayed on the main board for pupils to follow:



Pupils would set up their chairs and collect a set of drum sticks.

1. Teacher demonstrates each rhythm, pupils follow
2. All pupils to play rhythms then repeat until
3. Play rhythms with along with the soundtrack.

BEHAVIOURAL ASPECT

Chair Drumming....Drum Sticks, Play Mats??? Yes, there are some key things to look out for in terms of behaviour!

When managing this kind of equipment it is vital to set very high behavioural expectations. Set the boundaries appropriately:

- Place the sticks down when told
- Pupils not to grab things at once
- Strictly use the set behaviour system (in the event of damaged equipment



Risk assessment is also very important with this topic and equipment could lead to equipment damage or even injury.

HOW IT IS COVID FRIENDLY

The last two years have been difficult for music teaching due to the lack of resources due to sanitation issues and other restrictions.

As it was just year 7 using there was no need to sanitise any equipment, whereas when you use keyboards in the classroom with mixed year groups then sanitisation was key.

Another reason how the above situation made this successful was that early on for year 7 they were able to develop a sense of rhythm and pulse and performing drum kit related tasks really did enhance this.

ONLINE RESOURCES I USED



Musical Contexts – they contain written activities that relate to tasks completed on chair drumming.

Musical Futures – contains many differentiated videos of songs you can chair drum to. You are able to play along with these.

SUMMARY

Teaching chair drumming has been successful because:

- Pupils develop a concept of rhythm
- Pupils easily demonstrate an understanding of pulse
- Performing rhythmic patterns creatively in preparation for future topics like notation