

Curriculum overview – Performing Arts department

Intent

By the end of KS3 all students in Drama and Music should have a confident understanding of the basic key skills in both subjects (for example intonation, balance, expression, body language etc).

Students should be able to demonstrate these skills through a range of subject specific abilities (i.e. in Music – instrumental performance, composition and in Drama – script reading, theatre styles). This model allows for students to enter KS4 with a confident underpinning of the skills required for successful KS4 performance.

The Performing Arts department aspires to provide a curriculum which allows students of all backgrounds to flourish, to experience practical subjects in an enjoyable way which models professional practice and high expectations and equips students with the skills and understanding to move onto careers in the Performing Arts industry or to study subjects at a higher level.

The Performing Arts department aims to achieve the following:

- To develop confident, creative and enthusiastic performers
- To enrich students curriculum with practical, innovative lessons
- To encourage students to aim high and raise aspirations
- To enable students to achieve their highest potential
- To ensure students enjoy the arts and develop an understanding of a range of cultural influences
- To provide expertise in arts subjects inspiring students to progress to further and higher education courses

KS3 overview

At KS3 assessment is based on end of half term performances with an interim assessment or performance halfway through the scheme of work.

Students aim to reach an overall level based on a range of key skills – for example Y7 may have 5 key skills worth 20% each similar to a GCSE performance exam structure.

Students can improve this level through written responses in either peer or self reflection developing written skills and analytical thought.

- Y7/Y8 – 1 hour per week drama/music (music back into Y8 from Sep 19)
- Curriculum based on key skills needed in KS4
- Y7 focused on specific techniques, Y8 focused on wider genres/styles
- Y9 2 hours per week performing arts/music/dance – developing techniques for KS4 and analysis skills.

KS4 overview

Students study Btec Tech Award (vocational qualifications) at KS4, either specialising in Performing Arts (drama or dance focus) or Music. At KS4 students are assessed based on regular interim and final performance levels depending on the component – however they also back up this evidence through written evidence to support work completed during practical components. The three part structure is build on ‘explore, develop and apply’ and assessed work is both practical recorded work and written evidence of skills and techniques learned.

- Btec Tech Award in performing arts (with a drama or dance focus)
- Btec Tech Award in Music Practice
- Developing skills needed for employment in the creative industries
- 2 internal components plus one externally examined components

Stretch and challenge

Challenge and high expectations are an essential part to all the Performing Arts subjects – students are taught in a way which reflects music, dance or drama in a professional environment. Learning takes place in mostly a workshop based environment where the teacher is the expert practitioner facilitating the learning happening in the room.

All students are expected to aim for a ‘mastered’ in KS3 (or Distinction at KS4 or equivalent highest level) and tasks are mostly differentiated by outcome due to the nature of the subjects.

Enrichment opportunities

Arts subjects enable students to express themselves both inside and outside the classroom. Students taking part in enrichment and extra-curricular lessons have the opportunity of experiencing the arts outside of the school environment and performing outside of the classroom 'safe' zone. All extra-curricular activities are open to all students of all skill levels giving them the opportunity to work with and socialise with students in a different setting.

- Lunch time activities (drama club, guitar club, music theory)
- Production & pantomime
- After school clubs (dance club, musical theatre group, rock band)
- Masterclass groups – dance masterclass, studio and lighting masterclass, music production masterclass
- Catch up and intervention support
- Theatre and performance trips