

Subject – Performing Arts (Dance and Drama)

Subject Leader: Mrs Adlington

Subject teachers: Mrs Adlington

Department aims: To provide every child with the opportunity to be inspired by the Arts and achieve success in the Arts

Performing Arts provides students with a wide range of exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore and the performing arts plays a key role in our student's personal development. We aim to create social and educational development through participation in the arts by introducing our students to new and innovative elements; as well as embracing traditional practices. Our students will develop interpersonal skills such as confidence, social interaction, responsibility, sharing, planning, decision making, team-work and problem solving.

KS3 Drama

In Year 7 there is a focus on developing a range of basic dramatic techniques as well as using a variety of transferable skills across the curriculum. Throughout the year, students will be involved in topics such as mime and improvisation, developing means of communication through speech, movement and gesture. Students will also have the opportunity to be creative in exploring comedy value and scripted scenarios. Year 7 Drama, is 100% practical and students will begin to develop insight and thoughtful approaches to situations.

In Year 8, students begin by exploring the use of 'physical' through Drama, from concepts such as status and body language, to beginning to look at influential practitioners and how they have developed forms of physical theatre. Year 8 focuses on developing credible characters and ways of creatively shaping and structuring work from real life scenarios. Lastly, students complete a unit of work based on broadening their knowledge on a genre from a different period in history. Students will develop an act based on an old black and white silent movie, emphasising the use of exaggerated physical gesture and expression.

During Year 9 students engage in an exploration of theatrical concepts based on horror. Students will work on creating scenes of dramatic tension and audience impact, with the opportunity to use sound and lighting. Throughout the second half of the year, students will study scripted drama and examine ideas relating to audience, purpose and interpretation. Year 9 are able to be innovative with the style of drama they chose to devise, which fully prepares them for KS4 in working independently and with a variety of styles, texts and skills.

KS3 Dance

During Year 7, students will study the five components of dance: Travel, rotation, elevation, gesture and balance. This set study is in no particular style, however students will be able to showcase their own creative flare by choreographing their own work using the components of dance as a starting point. Later in the year, students will study set choreography of professional work in two different dance styles, allowing them to develop a range of skills in a variety of styles.

Year 8 dance starts with a focus on contact work. Students will learn a selection of basic lifts and counterbalances, working towards choreographing their own duet or trio. Secondly, Year 8 dance students will study both contemporary and street dance, learning extracts from professional work and adapting their own choreography to create their own version of each dance. Students will be assessed both on their creativity and choreography as well as their technique, physical and evaluative skills.

In Year 9, students will be able to advance their contact work and learn a selection of intermediate to advanced lifts and counterbalances. Each lesson will consist of new techniques, allowing the students to build a bank of techniques in order to create their own choreography and perform in the winter show. Students will also study a style of dance known as dance theatre, looking at a particular practitioner; Jasmin Vardimon. Students will be assessed both on their creativity and choreography as well as their technique, physical and evaluative skills.

KS4 Performing Arts Dance

KS4 students will be following a BTEC First Award in Performing Arts, with the option to choose their pathway in Dance. Students in Year 10 will complete two of the three units and produce a variety of practical work. Additionally; students will also produce a written journal, with details of strengths, areas for improvement and set short and long term goals to be reviewed.

In Year 11, students prepare for their externally assessed unit, the individual showcase. They are given a real life scenario, whereby they must prepare two solo dances for an audition and write a letter of application under exam conditions. Skills developed throughout the first year of the course are vital in achieving success in the externally assessed unit.

Throughout each unit students be assessed against:

- Physical skills: posture, balance, coordination, flexibility, stamina, strength, extension, spatial awareness, contraction, movement memory and more.
- Interpretive skills: emphasis, projection, focus, use of space, musicality, facial expression, quality, timing and more.
- Reviewing their own practice: identifying strengths and areas for development, setting targets, tracking their own progress
- Professionalism and preparation for rehearsal
- Commitment
- Receiving and giving constructive and positive feedback

How can I help support my child's learning in Performing Arts?

Every Wednesday from 2.45 to 3:30pm we offer an open rehearsal club, whereby students from all year groups can use the dance and drama studios to create work for up and coming shows, with the help and guidance of the performing arts teacher.

Thursday's of week 1, there is a BTEC Performing Arts P6 session, which can help your child to catch up or refine and work.

Useful websites

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/about-us/qualification-brands/btec/progress-with-btec/options-evenings-and-open-days/btec-performing-arts-and-music-toolkit.html>

<http://jasminvardimon.com/>

Useful YouTube subscriptions:

1. National Theatre
2. Sadler's Wells Theatre
3. Got to Dance Sky