

BTEC Extended Certificate in Performing Arts Pre-course work



Pre-course expectations

Success in Sixth Form is largely a function of the amount and quality of independent study you carry out; here is a chance to help you get the very best start to your course. We would like you to complete the work described below and hand it in to your teacher in your first lesson in September. If you have made a late change to your timetable, please complete this work within the first week of starting the course. The work should take you 2-3 hours.

Details of pre-course work

- Watch a piece of live (or recorded) Musical Theatre Performance or Theatrical Production by an established practitioner. For example, a production by Frantic Assembly, Matthew Bourne or Lin Manuel Miranda.
- Once watched, prepare a PowerPoint presentation, saved on a memory stick, that includes information about the play and production, and evaluates the effectiveness of the production in your (educated) opinion and information on the practitioner.

Suggestions to help you with this work

- The presentation should be structured as follows:
 - Title of musical, director or production company, venue seen, date seen.
 - Some background about the Musical and the practitioner.
 - Some background about the production/production company/director.
 - At least one example that you would like to pick out from the performance.
 - A summary of your evaluation of the effectiveness of the production.
- Consider the relevance of the piece to you as an audience member within our contemporary context.
- Particularly try to comment on the style or techniques used and their purpose.
- Try to resist a colloquial review of the piece, or one which recommends the piece to others. The presentation should be an academic evaluation.
- See a piece of professional theatre, not an amateur production.

Stretch yourself

- If possible, watch another version of the same musical, is it in film or book format? Compare it within your PowerPoint.
- Watch another piece of live theatre – the more the better!