



GCSE Dance

Key contacts: Mrs H Reddy
Exam Board: AQA

Overview of the course:

The course focuses on the aesthetic and artistic qualities of dance and the symbolic use of movement to express and communicate ideas and concepts through the interrelated processes of performance, choreography and appreciation. Dance is a powerful and empowering form of non-verbal communication and it is both physical and expressive, which makes it similar to and different from other art forms and physical activities. Dance develops creative, imaginative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacities.

This AQA specification acknowledges the important role that dance plays in young people's lives. Whilst many students will bring some previous experience of dance, others will have very little. This specification aims to value and build on whatever experience they have. GCSE students will study a range of dance styles which acknowledge aspects of the repertoire of dance that can be seen in the United Kingdom today. The course allows them to be creative, using their own ideas and appreciating those of others.

What will you study?

Subject content

- Performance
- Choreography
- Dance appreciation

Skills-based approach

The practical component of the course enables students to study Dance by 'doing' and the anthology of professional works will provide a springboard for the development of creative and engaging practical tasks. The study of the anthology will facilitate the development of students' skills in performance and choreography as well as broadening their knowledge and understanding of Dance and the ability to critically appraise dances of different styles and cultural influences. All students will be required to purchase College Dance attire and will receive a well-structured Dance folder for theory work.

Performance

Students must develop and apply the following knowledge, understanding and skills to perform dance as a soloist for approximately one minute and in a duet/trio for a minimum of three minutes. The total duration of a student's performance must be no less than three and a half minutes.

Alternative Pathways to Success – BTEC Dance

The delivery of the GCSE course is designed in such a way to enable some students who may find the written examination challenging to successfully access an alternative qualification. Subject to the professional judgement of the Dance teacher and Head of Department, students may be entered for the BTEC Performing Arts (Dance) Qualification, which would entail the completion of three written and practical units. There is no formal written examination, yet the BTEC qualification potentially enables students to achieve the equivalent of a Grade 9 outcome. The vocational pathway will be discussed at the end of Term 1.

Assessment

Students must complete both assessment components (Component 1 and Component 2). Component 1 is internally marked and externally moderated.

Component 1

Performance 30%:

- Set Phrases x 2 (12 marks)
- Duet/Trio 3 - 5 minutes (24 marks)
- Mental Rehearsal (4 marks)

Choreography 30%

- Solo (2.30 minutes) or
Group (3.30 minutes/40 marks)

Component 2

Dance Appreciation 40%

Theory Paper based on own practice in performance and choreography and the GCSE Dance anthology

(90 minutes/80 marks):

- Section A – Knowledge and understanding choreographic process and performing skills
- Section B – Critical appreciation of own work
- Section C – Critical appreciation of professional works (6 professional works studied)

Possible career path:

GCSE Dance is a clear progression to A Level, Higher Education, BTEC Performing Arts courses and beyond! Dancers also have the opportunity to showcase their work in our annual event the Appreciation of Dance Show and the Performing Arts Show.