

Subject: Dance

Curriculum Context

Dance at A-Level can be studied without any prior experience in the subject however, if GCSE or BTEC Dance has not been previously studied then it is a requirement that you have studied dance outside of school to a high standard. Dance is only offered by a select few schools in the consortium at KS4, therefore students that join the course have a large variation in prior knowledge.

Key Stage 5

Intent Why?	<p>A-level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. All of these are sought after skills by higher education and employers and will help them stand out in the workplace whatever their choice of career. This specification reflects both historical and current dance practices, making it more relevant, and inspires a lifelong passion and appreciation for dance.</p> <p>The aim is to provide students with a subject option that combines a creative practical element, with a robust academic content. Students competing this course will have a practical dance performance that they can exhibit at University interviews.</p> <p>The intention is that this course can be studied without having studied it at KS4 but prior knowledge BTEC or GCSE Dance is desirable.</p> <p>Regardless of what field of study, or career, a student wants to progress into the life skills that studying Dance installs the ability to perform under pressure, time manage, develop confidence and work creatively.</p>
Implementation How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The students have 3 practical units and 1 written

- Solo Performance – Students will perform a solo in the style of their chosen practitioner. This is a collaboration with dancer and teacher. The solo needs to be 2 – 3 minutes in length and will be performed in March of Year 13
- Performance in a Quartet – Students then use their performer skills that they have previously learnt and transfer these skills to a group performance setting, with the added challenge of space, other dancers and contact work. The solo needs to be 3 – 5 minutes in length and will be performed in March of Year 13
- Choreography – Students are given a choice of 3 stimuli from the exam board to choreograph a 3 – 4-minute dance on. They must not perform in the dance themselves and must use KS4 and KS3 more able dancers. This is also performed in March in Year 13.

Written paper – students have 2 set works they must study and answer short and essay style questions on the subject matter, style, movement, set, costume, lighting, dancers and choreographer. The 2 professional works are 'Rooster' by Christopher Bruce and 'Sutra' By Sidi Larbi. The students will answer questions on Rambert Dance Company and their progression over time, and also an essay question based on the development of the contemporary dance scene from the year 2000 till current day. This written paper is 2 hours and 30 mins long and has 3 25-mark essays.

Year 12: This is where students learn the technical performance skills in a range of dance styles and influence by each practitioner studied in preparation for their solo and quartet performance in Year 13. Students also will take part in choreography workshops to develop levels of creativity and learn the skill of improvisation and contact work. The written paper content is mainly taught during Year 12 to allow time for revision and practical 1 to 1 tutorial for the live moderation.

Year 13: Each student has 1 to 1 guidance to complete a solo which is created for them and unique from other candidates. Once this is completed a quartet performance is made for the dancers to highlight their best features of technique and performance. Meanwhile students are working on their choreography exam paper both during and outside of lesson time with their chosen selected dancers. Exam paper revision will be during theory lessons to consolidate knowledge learnt during Year 12.

Trips, Workshops, Guest Speakers, Local:

- Students will go to local theatres to watch professional work from the practitioners they study. Previous trips have gone to see Richard Alston Dance Company and Akram Khan.
- Students have also gone on trips to the local cinema to watch live screenings of Matthew Bourne's work.
- Professional Dance Artists will come in and work with students on a dance intensive workshop to prepare for the performance exams.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous A Level Dance student who are now currently studying Dance at university will come in as guest speakers and to offer dance workshops • The dance department runs an annual trip to Move It in London, which is the Worlds Largest Dance Event, which allows students to meet their dance idols, take part in classes and workshops with dance professionals, watch the live stage where the best dancers and companies in the world perform, and have the opportunity to win a golden ticket which gives access to a scholarship to a dance college/university/school.
Impact What it looks like?	<p><u>The course comprises of:</u></p> <p>50% Practical 50% Written Paper</p>
Timescales	Students receive 8 x 1hour lessons per fortnight over 2 years.