

Dance Department

The Dance department is a thriving and integral part of the Performing Arts Faculty which includes Drama and Music. Dance at this school provides students with performance opportunities which the whole school community are able to enjoy. These consist of a range of academic and extra-curricular showcases throughout the year. The department hosts its annual Dance Appreciation Evening, combines as a faculty to create the School Production and makes a valuable contribution to celebratory assemblies and such events as the Christmas Extravaganza.

The teaching of this subject is currently the responsibility of a sole teacher who also delivers an extra-curricular programme as well as running a range of rehearsals.

The facilities include a sole purpose Dance Studio complete with a mirrored wall, projector, dance floor and desks for the theory component easily accessible.

The Curriculum

Year 9 / KS3 – Dance is delivered by PE staff in a block of 8 lessons as part of a rotation around a range of activities. This serves as an introduction to the subject to inspire interest and develop skills required at KS4. The lessons are all practical and focus on performance skills initially and move onto exploring the art of choreography through the medium of contemporary dance.

Years 10 & 11 / KS4 – GCSE Dance is taught as an option subject only from this point forward which begins after the May half term in Year 9. Dance theory lessons are introduced at this stage owing to the written component in the course. Students will receive an average of 1/3 of lessons in a classroom leaving the remaining 2/3 of lessons to concentrate on practical tasks. The department has achieved consistently sound results over the past 6 years. Students follow the AQA specification in GCSE Dance.

Year 12 & 13 / KS5 – We are proud to offer A-Level Dance for students who wish to specialise in this subject area at Post-16. There is an equal weighting of practical and theory components and all students enter the full A-Level course, spanning the two years with examinations taking place in the Summer of Year 13. Students follow the AQA specification in A-Level Dance.

Extra-Curricular Activities – Year 9 Dance Club is a priority event taking place after school once a week allowing keen students to participate in the activity all year round prior to taking options. Sixth form dance students regularly support in leading this club as well as assisting in GCSE lessons to act as mentors for individuals as required. The department reserve slots specifically for class catch-up, revision sessions and 1:1 support as appropriate. This timetable is constructed around other rehearsals that emerge throughout the year.