**Matravers School**

**Dance**

**Performing Arts at Matravers**

The Performing Arts make a highly valued contribution to the curriculum and learning experience of students at Matravers, a legacy of the school’s former Arts College specialist school status. Dance, alongside Drama and Music enjoys bespoke curriculum time throughout Key Stage 3 and options in KS4 and the Sixth Form are popular with a number of our students. At Matravers, it is recognised that the Performing Arts play a unique and valued role in developing creativity and other transferable skills for all students, in addition to the specialist skills within each subject. The impact of the Performing Arts extends beyond the curriculum through the offer of high quality extra-curricular opportunities including an annual school production (a real highlight of the school calendar), partnerships with national companies, theatre visits and a range of ‘in-house’ clubs, companies and ensembles.

**The Department**

The Dance Department currently has one permanent full time teacher, plus a further part time practitioner. Both are specialists and offer a range of extra-curricular activities. The school is looking to appoint an enthusiastic and well-qualified Head of Dance who will lead the department through the next stage of its development in pursuit of our vision to secure ‘world class’ learning opportunities for our students across the curriculum.

The Dance Department is well resourced and has access to: a wide range of resources, suitable across the key stages; a large, purpose built dance studio with lighting facilities; access to free-standing lights and sound system; the main school theatre for performances, complete with stage, lighting rig, technical booth and raked seating; and a qualified technician.

**Curricular Provision**

The current Dance curriculum is varied and dynamic, offering students opportunities to develop their skills of performing, creating and viewing dance as an art form. The challenge embedded within the schemes of work is developmental, preparing the students for high order thinking and increasingly demanding learning experiences as their dance studies progress.

At Key Stage 3 students follow a varied programme of study including the study of a range of professional dance works in addition to developing their skills as performers and choreographers.

At Key Stage 4 (current Year 10) students follow the BTEC Performing Arts specification.

At Key Stage 4 (current Year 11) students follow the AQA GCSE Dance specification and the BTEC Performing Arts specification.

At Key Stage 5 students follow the AQA A Level Dance specification.

The Level 3 BTEC Performing Arts course is also taught at Key Stage 5, with colleagues from Dance contributing to this alongside Drama and Music.

At Matravers, we constantly review the curriculum offer to ensure that it is well-matched to the students’ abilities, enabling them to successfully develop high quality subject specific and transferable skills as well as exam success.

**Extra-Curricular Provision**

The Dance department is proud to offer a range of extra-curricular opportunities including dance companies for Key Stage 3 (‘KICKstart’), Key Stage 4 and 5 (‘make*SHIFT*’) and boys (‘endurance’). The annual Dance in Action performance is a real highlight of the performing arts calendar and includes performances of examination work and curriculum work as well as those created through our extra-curricular programme. Our dancers also regularly perform in the local and regional area, which has led to a strong reputation for excellence within Dance at Matravers.

Dance also plays a central role in the overall performing arts offer of the school. Matravers has built a reputable tradition of staging highly successful whole school productions annually, which unite the performing arts and design subjects to create a spectacle of creativity and performance. Most recently, in December 2018, the students superbly brought to life *‘We Will Rock You’*, with four sell out performances and a waiting list for tickets. We are currently working hard to prepare our forthcoming production *‘Sister Act’*, due to be staged in January 2020. Our annual Performing Arts Celebration Evening is also a wonderful opportunity for students across the performing arts to share their talents and celebrate their successes.