



Performing Arts Department Curriculum Statement 2026

Intent

The Performing Arts curriculum is designed to engage and inspire students, enabling them to develop as confident, creative and skilled performers. It aims to build students' practical expertise, resilience, and independence, preparing them for further study and future pathways.

The curriculum provides a broad and balanced experience across Music, Drama and Dance, ensuring students develop a secure body of knowledge alongside technical and expressive skills. It is carefully sequenced to build on prior learning, allowing students to make clear connections and apply their understanding in increasingly sophisticated ways.

Performing Arts contributes to students' wider development by fostering creativity, cultural awareness and self-expression. Through exposure to diverse styles, genres and practitioners, students gain an appreciation of the historical and cultural contexts of performance, supporting their understanding of the wider world.

Implementation

The curriculum is structured to ensure progression in both knowledge and practical skills across all year groups. Students explore a range of styles and techniques through practical and theoretical study, using a variety of stimuli to inform their work.

Across all disciplines, students regularly engage in:

- performance and rehearsal
- composition and devising
- analysis and evaluation of professional and peer work

Our teachers focus on the explicit development of subject-specific knowledge and technical skills, moving from foundational principles to more advanced and refined performance work. Teachers use their subject expertise to model, scaffold and challenge, enabling all students to make progress.

Our students are supported to work collaboratively, refine their ideas and respond to both peer and teacher feedback. Opportunities for critique and reflection are embedded within lessons to deepen understanding and improve outcomes.

Assessment is integral to the curriculum. Formative assessment is ongoing, informing teaching and identifying misconceptions, while summative assessments take place at

key points to measure progress against clearly defined criteria. Targeted support and intervention are used to ensure all students can succeed.

Additional opportunities are provided through our extensive Session 3 and extracurricular provision, allowing students to rehearse, refine and extend their learning beyond the classroom. We have Music School, Rock Bands, Orchestra, String group, Choir, Key Stage 3 Drama Club, Junior and Senior Dance Academy, Boys Dance, Sixth form Arts Night and GCSE and BTEC Support sessions as part of the provision.

Impact

Students develop as confident, skilled and reflective performers, with a secure understanding of the key concepts and practices within the performing arts. They demonstrate the ability to apply technical skills, interpret stimuli and perform with increasing control and expression.

Outcomes in Performing Arts at Key stage 4 and Sixth form are strong and are consistently above national averages in all three disciplines. A high proportion of students choose to study music and performing arts at Key Stage 4 and into Sixth Form. Many progress to higher education and careers within the creative industries.

Enrichment opportunities, including whole school musical productions, performances and concerts, enhance the curriculum and allow students to apply their learning in various formal settings. Music and Dance groups also regularly perform in the wider community. Educational visits further support students' understanding of live performance and cultural practice.

As a result, students leave the department with the knowledge, skills and cultural capital required to succeed in their next stage of education and beyond.

Subject contact

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