



DANCE

A-Level Course Information



Qualification: Advanced Level Dance

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Leader: Ms R. Tyrrell

Entry Requirements:

Minimum Entry Requirements:

5 x 5s

4 in English and Maths

Subject Specific Entry Requirements:

6 in Dance if taken at GCSE

Why study Dance?

"There is a vitality, a life force, an energy, a quickening that is translated through you into action, and because there is only one of you in all time, this expression is unique. And if you block it, it will never exist through any other medium and will be lost. Dance is the hidden language of the soul" - Martha Graham

Do you have determination, desire and dedication? Are you creative, imaginative, analytical and expressive? If so you will thrive whilst studying A-Level Dance. Studying A-level Dance will provide you with the opportunity to develop your critical thinking about dance and to gain experience of performance and choreography. It is the perfect progression for those who have studied dance at GCSE and/or have previous experience of dance through formal training in dance classes, although this is not essential.

What can I do with Dance after A-Level?

This course provides a strong foundation for students wanting to pursue professional dance or performing arts training and employment. It suits students wanting to continue their study of dance at university and will help to facilitate students who wish to teach and/or work in community dance in the future. It also suits students wanting to work in theatre, visual arts, media, physiotherapy, sports science and health care. The skills learned and developed by studying A-Level Dance are transferrable to numerous subjects outside of the 'arts'. Skills such as commitment, time-management, analytical and critical thinking, creativity, team work, independence and physical confidence, all contribute to a successful career post sixth form.

Dance Extras

As an A-Level Dance student you will have the opportunity to participate in numerous activities outside of your lessons. Not only will you see a range of professional dance companies perform, you will have the opportunity to work with professional artists. You will have the chance to choreograph for and perform in a range of productions and festivals. You will also have access to the purpose built performance hall where in-house shows will take place.

What will I study?

Component 1: Performance and Choreography – 50% of the A-Level, practical exam

What's assessed?

Solo performance linked to a specific practitioner within an area of study

Students must develop and apply the knowledge, understanding and skills required to perform as a soloist in the style of a specified practitioner.

Performance in a quartet

The quartet performance can be choreographed by the student, their teacher or a dance artist. The dance can be performed in any dance style relevant to the defined genres.

Group choreography

Students must learn how to create an original piece of group choreography, which lasts for a minimum of three minutes to a maximum of four minutes, for three, four or five dancers, in response to an externally set task.

Component 2: Critical engagement – 50% of the A-Level, 2.5 hour written exam

What's assessed?

- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of a compulsory set work and its location within a corresponding area of study. The area of study is Rambert Dance Company (1966-2002) and the compulsory set work is Rooster choreographed by Christopher Bruce.
- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of one optional set work and its location within a corresponding area of study. The optional set work studied is The independent contemporary dance scene in Britain (2000-present) and the optional set work is Sutra by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui.

For the areas of study students will develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of dance through time and location relating to features of genre, including: style, technique, influences, key practitioners, professional repertoire, communication of dance ideas.

Written paper exam:

- Section A: short answer questions (25 marks) and one essay question (25 marks) on the compulsory set work/area of study
- Section B: two essay questions on the second set work/area of study (25 marks for each essay)