



Curriculum Overview – *Performing Arts*

Why is the study of *Performing Arts* important?

By studying Performing Arts, pupils will practically explore a range of performance, composing/devising & listening methods & techniques, as well as developing analytical skills. In Performing Arts, pupils will study a wide range of disciplines; Music, Drama, Dance, Musical theatre & production design. All learners will be given the opportunity to explore their own creative intention, express their thoughts, ideas & opinions in all performance & design lessons. As a citizen in this world, students need to know how to work collaboratively with other people, express their personal views, understand their view of others, and communicate clearly.

Student's study of Performing Arts will encourage them to think deeply and help them to effectively express themselves– a great life skill that all universities and employers will appreciate.



What skills will you gain from *Performing Arts*?

In all performing Arts lessons, pupils will have the exciting opportunity to develop their practical understanding of a range of Music, Drama, Dance, Musical theatre & production design skills & techniques.

In Drama, pupils will learn to use characterisation, physical/vocal expression, basic devising/ staging techniques, still images, thought tracks, narration, blocking, split staging and movement devices.

In Dance pupils will work on timing, flexibility, alignment, co-ordination, canon, unison, how to structure the actions into a sequence and make decisions about dynamics within Dance.

Through the exploration of different Musical genres, pupils will learn how to read basic notation, develop their keyboard playing skills, compose their own music & listen to a wide variety of different artists & styles.

A part of the Production Design rotation, pupils have the opportunity work with different mediums, such as clay, paper mache, painting, printing & 3D design, whilst looking at set design, props & theatre masks.

"Our curriculum will be structured so that no pupil is prevented from pursuing a course or programme based on their gender, ability, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation. Pupils with disabilities or special educational needs will, as far as is possible, be provided with reasonable adjustments to enable them to access an ambitious and relevant curriculum."



What knowledge will you gain from the study of *Performing Arts*?

In Drama & Dance-specific lessons, you will learn about how Playwrights and choreographers have an intention for their work and there is often a political or social meaning within the work. You will also learn that there are many different styles of theatre & dance that have been developed with different approaches and intentions. You will also look at different Theatre and Dance practitioners & how they have developed a range of different approaches to match the intention of their work, of which you will then have to be able to realise the importance of considering your audience in the re-creation of their performance work, & when creating your own. You will also learn how to articulate the aspects of a piece of performance that you like/dislike and why, & how to give & act upon constructive criticism when performing, which in turn will help you understand the response from your audience and adapt your work to increase the clarity and effectiveness.

In music-specific lessons you will be exposed to a wide variety of music genres. Across your music study you are encouraged to make connections through your music-making in order to place the music in context. You will develop your knowledge of music theory, relevant notations, traditions and skill based learning on keyboard which will ensure that you develop as musically literate individuals, capable of playing a musical instrument, with a solid understanding of the global importance of music and an ability to analyse and justify your opinions to enhance your critical understanding.

In Production-specific lessons, you will learn the skill of creativity as you develop your ability to utilise skills and techniques to communicate visual ideas. You will learn to approach this challenge through a wide range of mediums which may include drawing, painting, printing, photography, pottery or sculpture. You will develop your confidence in applying these skills to projects that develop your self-expression. Participating in Production Design will also develop your problem solving skills as you approach the challenge of creating your own work. For example, starting with a lump of clay and turning it into a theatre mask requires you to work out the process, as well as developing your focus and perseverance.

How does *Performing Arts* help you in other subject areas?

Performing Arts is a collection of valuable subjects for all to study whether you are a gifted performer or have never engaged in anything Performing Arts-based outside of school. Performing Arts' place in your education has important wider benefits on personal and social development, such as building your confidence, self-esteem, sense of achievement and ability to relate to others.

The study of Performing Arts subjects is an important component of our human experience. Whether singing, playing, acting, dancing or listening, the study of Performing Arts subjects helps you listen and hear in new ways. Plato said that music "is a more potent instrument than any other for education".

Performing Arts-based subjects requires you to use both sides of your brain and develops your ability to think academically, emotionally, physically and spiritually. What would life be like with no music, drama or dance? Studying the performing arts can lead to your personal life time pursuit of the subjects for your own personal enjoyment. Performing Arts subjects ARE academic, & they can train your brain for higher forms of thinking.

All performing Arts subjects can be physical and like any performance skill, they require practice and rehearsal, but also promote movement through rhythm and encourages health and well-being as they demand an emotional engagement. Music, Drama & Dance are all art forms. We are emotional beings and your study of Performing Arts from Year 7 will provide an artistic outlet and a vehicle for expression. The skills you will learn in Performing Arts are skills you will use for the rest of your life – even if you don't end up in a performing arts-centred career.



What can you do to deepen your knowledge and skills of *Performing Arts*?

'Practise makes perfect' is the key to all areas of Performing Arts, whether it be learning lines for a drama piece, rehearsing choreography for a dance or sectioning a piece of music to play/sing. Setting time aside every day, even if it's only 20-30 minutes, can make a massive difference to the quality & effectiveness of a performance piece, which in turn, will help you achieve a higher grade overall.

How are you assessed in *Performing Arts*.

We try to make all assessments as practical as possible, so you can demonstrate real-life skills & techniques you've learnt whilst studying the different areas of Performing Arts.

At Key Stage some assessments may be undertaken as a group, particularly when studying Drama & Dance/Musical Theatre, whereas Music performances & Production design pieces may be assessed on an individual basis.

For Key Stage 4, we follow BTEC Tech Award courses for both Performing Arts & Music;-

In **Performing Arts**, you study 3 units:

1 – **Exploring the Performing Arts**. This unit allows you to explore the Performing Arts by studying different people involved in the industry, such as Actors, Dancers, Directors, Choreographers, Writers etc. over 3 different performance works. The work you produce for this unit is assessed by your teacher.

2 - **Developing skills & techniques in the Performing Arts**. In this unit you will learn how to develop your performing/designing skills & techniques in one or more of the following disciplines: acting, dance, musical theatre or production arts. The work you produce for this unit is assessed by your teacher.

3 - **Performing to a brief** – In this unit you will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a given brief (topic/theme/scenario). This unit is assessed by the exam board.

In **Music**, you study 4 units:

1- **The Music Industry** – In this unit you will look at the different types of organisations that make up the music industry (Broadcasting, Publishing, Marketing, Recording, Venues, Agencies etc.) will then look at & also specific job roles within the industry (Performers, Producers, Music journalists, Broadcasters, Retail & Distribution, etc.) You will then complete a 1-hour written exam.

2 – **Managing a Music product** - In a group, you will create your own Music product in which you will have to design all the artwork, decide on the songs & artists, seek copyright permission, & then promote your product by creating posters, tickets, merchandise, radio/TV adverts and a website. This unit is assessed by your teacher.

For the remaining 2 units, you will have a choice from the following:

- Introducing Live Sound,
- Introducing Music Composition,
- Introducing Music Performance,
- Introducing Music Recording,
- Introducing Music Sequencing

Whichever 2 units you choose, all work will be assessed by your teacher.

How can *Performing Arts* help you in your future?

Just because you study Performing Arts, it doesn't necessarily mean you have to be a performer in the future – there are so many other jobs you can go into, some which aren't even directly related to the Performing Arts industry! That is the beauty of studying Performing Arts – you learn so many other transferable skills that will help you in later life!

By studying any of the Performing Arts, you are showing that you can:

- Be creative,
- Work well on your own & with others,
- Have the patience to persevere with things,
- Have good communication skills (both verbal & non-verbal),
- Express your emotions,
- Have increased confidence,
- Have excellent listening skills,
- Empathise,
- Have improved problem solving skills.
- Have increased concentration & memory.

INSERT SUBJECT – Curriculum Maps

PA & Music Curriculum Map Years 7 - 11					
Term	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	Lion King integrated project	Chords Introduction to Production design	Baseline assessment Keyboard skills & basic theory. ----- Baseline assessment Traditional Vs Urban fairytales / "Into the woods" – MT/DRAMA/DANCE or DESIGN options. MUSICAL THEATRE - "Grease"	Component 1 – "Exploring music products & styles" (real) <u>Internally-assessed task</u> ----- Component 1 (real)	Component 2 – "Music skills development" (real) <u>Internally-assessed task</u> ----- Component 2 (real) <u>Discipline & piece chosen by pupils</u>
2	Basic Keyboard skills Basic drama skills & tools	Radio play (voice & speech) Blues Music	Keyboard skills & basic theory (continued) ----- Devising skills workshops Component 3 (mock)	Introduction to composition &/or sequencing. ----- Devising skills workshops Component 3 (real – 1 st sitting) <u>Task set by exam board</u>	Component 3 – "Responding to a commercial Music brief" (real) <u>Externally-assessed task</u> ----- Component 3 (re-sit if necessary) <u>Task set by exam board</u>
3	Film Music Silent Movies/Melodrama	Theatre Masks Dragon's Den project	Component 3 – "Responding to a commercial Music brief" (mock) ----- Vocal skills workshops DRAMA – Stanislavski, Boal & Brecht <i>Oldham Coliseum partnership project</i>	Performance skills workshops Component 2 – "Music skills development" (mock) <u>Internally-assessed task</u> ----- DRAMA (& MT) - "Blood Brothers"	External Exams/Study



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