

Dance
Examination Board: AQA

What is the course like?

If pupils enjoy performing and choreographing dances and like to challenge themselves in terms of building strength, stamina, and flexibility, then this subject is for them. During the course pupils will engage in individual and group practical work exploring a variety of different dance styles and professional works. Pupils will also attend live performances and engage in dance workshops with professional artists.

What is studied during the course?

In Year 10, the course focuses on:

- Performance: developing physical, technical, and expressive skills through a range of dance styles. Pupils are engaged in at least 100 minutes of practical dance teaching a week and can take part in practical dance workshops with professional companies.
- Choreography: exploring movement and developing composition skills using professional dance works.
- Dance appreciation: describing, interpreting, and evaluating the movement components and aspects of production in dance works. Pupils are invited on dance/theatre trips to encourage critical appreciation.
- Safe practice: developing knowledge and understanding of health, fitness, and safe working practices.
- Beginning to think/choreograph NEA in preparation for Year 11.

In Year 11, the course focuses on:

- Choreography: learning how to use stimuli and themes to create movement. Learning how to improvise and using performance work to aid in choreographic ideas.
- Developing performance skills and building on the knowledge gained in the previous year.
- Selection of exam pieces to find the most suitable for each pupil.

How is the course assessed?

1. Practical Assessment (internally and externally) **60%**.
2. Theory Assessment (written exam) **40%**.

Component 1: Performance and Choreography

60% of the GCSE

- Performance in a duet/trio.
- Solo performance through set phrases choreographed by the exam board - *30% of the GCSE*.
- Solo or group choreography based on a stimulus set by the exam board - *30% of the GCSE*.

Component 2: Dance Appreciation

40% of the GCSE

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performance skills.
- Critical appreciation of own work.
- Critical appreciation of 6 professional works ranging from ballet, contemporary, Brazilian, and hip hop.

Additional Information

It will help pupils to get the best grade they can if they: have an open mind towards dance; are not afraid to explore new movement and ideas; enjoy performing to an audience, showing confidence, musicality and style; demonstrate individuality and artistry in the communication of dance ideas; actively pursue the development of a strong, flexible and expressive body; volunteer to be in GCSE/A-level exam work.

For further information, please contact Miss Birchall.