

Dance

A level

What will I study and learn?

You will explore the work of choreographers through technical training and performance. During the course you will get the opportunity to analyse the style of choreographers found within two specific companies/ areas of study and compare the different works they have created.

How will I be assessed?

Practical exam (50%)

Three components – assessed by an external examiner:

- Solo performance based on a specific choreographer
- Performance in a quartet
- Group choreography.

Theory exam (50%)

Theory exam assessed through a final written paper. This includes short-answer questions and three essay questions based on the two areas of study and two professional works.

What skills should I have and what will be developed?

You will be expected to have a strong ability in at least performing or choreographing. It is also important for you to be able to work collaboratively. Through technical training, you will enhance your creativity as a performer and progress your expressive and physical ability. You will also get to further develop your leadership and communication skills. Students will learn to interpret dance and develop skills in essay writing through in-depth analysis.

You will get the chance to audition for our annual Autumn term main dance production, whether that is as a main character or a selected dancer role.

You will also have the opportunity to perform in various showcases and competitions through the year, including our Reflections showcase,

Outside of performing, Sixth-form students are encouraged to work with younger pupils, supporting clubs and events, including House Dance and Performing Arts Day. We also run a buddy system with Year 7-9 Dance clubs and offer many

opportunities for Sixth-form pupils to lead various workshops and clubs for younger pupils. There is also the House Dance Competition with the Lower Sixth group category and other theatre trips that take place throughout the year.

Courses beyond the Sixth Form include focus areas within dance, theatre, choreography, performance, musical theatre and screen-based work. Specialist dance schools are more practical-based with daily technique classes and performance work, while university dance courses tend to be more academic-based with

both written and practical elements. Beyond university, careers in dance can take place in all kinds of settings with roles such as dance therapists, freelance performers, community dance artists, teachers, company managers and dance critics.

Entry requirements

You must have prior experience of dance to be able to study this subject in the Sixth Form; this can be from studying Dance at GCSE level, attending regular dance classes or being a member of a dance company outside of school. Previous experience and skill in essay-based assessments would also be beneficial.



IB

What will I study?

You will explore, compare and contrast various genres of dance through performance, written analysis and choreography. As part of the written element, you will write an investigation comparing selected dances from different cultures. You will also keep an ongoing reflective logbook of your progress.

How will I be assessed?

All work is coursework-based with no final exam. It has three units:

1. Composition and analysis	2. Written dance investigation	3. Performance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SL: create two dance works (40%) • HL: create three contrasting dance works (35%) • External assessment by DVD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparing dance styles/cultures (SL: 20%; HL: 25%) • External assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SL: perform one or two dances, with at least one being a solo (40%) • HL: perform two or three dances of any dance style, with at least one being a solo (40%) • Internal assessment and external moderation.

What skills should I have and what will be developed?

Good ability in performance or choreography is recommended. A large amount of the course is practical so you will need a grounding in technical ability and confidence when performing. You will further develop your expressive skills and choreographic techniques within various styles. It is essential that students are able to work and research independently and have a particular interest in one key dance genre. Good written comparative skills would be beneficial.

Want to know more?

Mrs Emily Field
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Exam Board:
www.aqa.org.uk
www.ibo.org

“I really enjoy Dance because you get to study both the practical and theory side, and I enjoy being in the studio and being able to explore my own choreography and different styles. It also helps to get to know lots of other people in younger years, which is nice; Dance here has its own community.

Ella Neary, OB 2018
 Courses: Biology, Geography and Dance