

Expressive Arts: Art, Dance, Drama and Music

To study an Expressive Art you must have a keen interest in the subject you are thinking of opting for. Our subjects do involve group work but one of the biggest challenges you will face is the confidence and ability to work independently. You will need to be resilient and understand it takes hard work and commitment to improve. Lastly, creativity is one of the key skills you will need so don't be afraid to experiment and make mistakes, this is all part of the learning process.

Art

What does GCSE Art involve?

The GCSE in Art is made up of coursework, called a Portfolio and an externally set assignment. These two parts are weighted as 60% and 40% of the overall marks.

What will I study?

Component 1- Portfolio/Coursework = 60%

The first part will be covered in Year 10 and will be made up of a directed project. This will give the students the chance to acquire skills in Digital Art, Photography, Painting and drawing as well as Artists research. The second part of the coursework will be covered in Year 11 and will be a project that is a sustained development of a given theme. This will teach the students to produce a final piece from a sustained study.

Component 2 – Externally set assignment = 40%

The final part of the course is responding to an external set starting point given by the exam board and this is how the students demonstrate their ability of producing a sustained response to a given theme.

Dance

What does GCSE Dance involve?

GCSE Dance is a practical course designed for students who are enthusiastic and passionate about choreographing and performing. It is open to all students, although some experience of dance is necessary and it is desirable that students commit to extra-curricular sessions to rehearse and develop.

Dance is an empowering and powerful form of non-verbal communication which enables the development of creative, imaginative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacities. Theoretical elements of the course are mostly embedded within practical work to enable students to learn through visual and kinaesthetic strategies.

What will I study?

The course is split into three components: Performance, Choreography and Dance Appreciation.

Component 1 - Performance 30%

1. You will learn two set phrases to perform as a solo (approx. 1 minute)
2. Either a duet or a trio based on a set theme/ intention (approx. 3—3 and a half minutes)

Component 2 – Choreography 30%

1. You will create either a solo or group piece of choreography, of between two to three and a half minutes. This is choreographed in response to a choreography assessment task provided by AQA.

Component 3 - Dance Appreciation 40% (90 minute written exam)

1. Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills.
2. Critical Appreciation of your own practical work.
3. Critical Appreciation of professional dance works.

Drama

What does GCSE Drama involve?

Drama is a practical course which allows you to learn and develop performance and devising skills, however 70% of the course is written so you will need to consider this when opting.

It is open to all students, although some experience of drama is necessary. It is desirable that students commit to extra-curricular sessions to rehearse and develop their skills.

You will often work in groups and develop skills such as confidence and presentation skills which are transferable to other subjects and areas of life.

What will I study?

The course is split into three components: Performance, Devising and Drama Appreciation.

Devising Drama- 30%

You will research and explore a stimulus, working collaboratively to create your own devised piece. Alongside the practical element you also write a portfolio reflecting and evaluating on your process and finished piece.

Presenting and performing texts - 30%

You will develop and apply theatrical skills in acting by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a scripted piece of text. We are currently using the scripts 'Things I know to be true', 'Girls like That', 'Teachers', 'Chatroom' and 'Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time'.

Drama Appreciation- 40% (90 minute written exam)

The paper is in two sections:

Section A: You will explore practically a performance text to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of Drama. We are currently studying 'Blood Brothers'.

Section B: A requirement of the course is that we watch a live piece of theatre so that you can analyse and evaluate the performance piece in your exam.

Music

What does GCSE Music involve?

The Music course is for students who have enjoyed music during KS3 and play an instrument or sing to a reasonable standard. It is essential that you are committed to regular practice and are keen to learn about styles of music from different times and cultures. The course is largely based on completion of coursework

(60%) and will involve some degree of live performance, for example in the Expressive Arts Showcase events.

What will I study?

Unit 1: My Music Integrated Performance and Composing Tasks (30%)

Supervised tasks completed within lesson time that are marked internally before being moderated externally.

You choose a style of performance to show your best instrumental skills or you may use your voice. Once you have practised/rehearsed you will then perform live, this is recorded and then marked. You will then be required to COMPOSE a piece of your own using that same instrument or your voice. This piece will reflect the same mood or style as your performance piece.

Unit 2: Ensemble and set composition (30%)

Supervised tasks completed within lesson time that are marked internally before being moderated externally.

This is a group performance (two or more performers) using any style or genre of your chosen music. Your part in this ensemble should showcase your best performance skills.

You will also need to compose a piece in a particular style set by the examining board.

Unit 3: Listening and Appraising Test 40%

Written exam paper at the end of the two year course, marked externally.

This is a written test with a CD and question paper. It lasts for 1 hour and 30 minutes and the questions are based on set areas of study, ranging from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic Concerto, through to Pop from the 1950s to the present day. Some of the questions will be multiple-choice, or require short phrases or single-word answers. Others will be longer and need to be grammatically correct. The questions will relate to the set areas of study which will have been used in the practical work and studied in the music lessons. These areas of study will also include film music and folk music from various parts of the world.

Please speak to your class teacher if you are interested in opting for an Expressive Arts subject or talk to our current Year 10 and 11 students who will be happy to share their experiences of the course with you.