Dance A Level

Course Description:

A Level Dance aims to develop your understanding of Dance as an art form. The practical elements of the course give you the opportunity to develop your choreography and performance skills. You will also develop your strength, stamina and flexibility to become a high quality practitioner. The course also requires you to analyse and interpret professional dance works and study the history of specific dance companies and genres. Advanced Level Dance will involve practical elements that demand strong commitment to extra-curricular rehearsals.

Qualifications Required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. Grade 5 in Dance. At least a Grade 5 in English is advisable. Students who do not have a GCSE in Dance should see Miss Halsey to discuss the possibility of taking the course.

Aims of the Course:

Students will be required to study and write about dance works, different genres of Dance and the history of a professional dance company in depth as well as take responsibility for their own learning by doing background reading and research. They will be expected to develop their creative thinking when choreographing dances and analysing professional works. Students will also develop their leadership skills and communication skills through group choreography and group performance.

Future Prospects:

You can progress on to:
Degree courses for Dance and Performing Arts.
Teaching or lecturing, choreography, community dance worker, performing in a Dance Company, Dance critic and review writer, creating Dance resources for teachers, costume, lighting and set design, or even a backing dancer in a music video!

Student Feedback:

‘Challenging course that is fun because we get to use our creative ability and showcase our work.’
‘Dance is a subject which allows us to express our ideas, feeling and emotions.’

Features of the Course:

This course would suit students who have a keen interest in dance as an art form. You will need to have the confidence and willingness to perform in a variety of situations as well as show imagination and creativity in their practical work. You will need to be able to articulate opinions in written form. It is essential that you attend as many professional performances and workshops as possible. Visits to see Theatre productions will be arranged for you to support and develop your learning as will workshops with professional Dance companies. Regular Technique classes are also run within school for practical support.

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Units

A Level Dance: Component 1
Performance and Choreography
- Solo Performance linked to a specific practitioner within an area of study.
- Performance in a quartet.
- Group Choreography

Practical Exam
80 marks, 50% of the A Level

A Level Dance: Component 2
Critical Engagement
- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of a compulsory set work and its location within a corresponding area of study.
- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of one optional set work and its location within a corresponding area of study.

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
100 marks, 50% of the A Level

Methods of Assessment:

- Practical exam of both performance and choreography work with an external examiner.
- Written exam that is externally marked.