BTEC Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (Musical Theatre)

(Equivalent to 3 A Levels)

Course Description:

If you enjoy performing in dance, drama and singing, then this course will be of interest to you. You will also need to have a willingness to work with others. A BTEC Extended Diploma is a practical, work-related course. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. As well as learning about the employment area you have chosen, you develop the skills you need to start a career. It is equivalent to three A Levels which means when you have finished the course you can choose whether to get a job straight away or go into higher education first.

Qualifications Required:

It is expected that you will have at least one Grade 4 in GCSE Drama, Dance or Music. If these have not been studied at GCSE, you must attend a department audition. A keen interest and experience in the subject would also be an advantage and a willingness to participate in performance activities is essential.

Aims of the Course:

You will be given the opportunity to develop and enhance your skills in the three art forms of Acting, Dance and Singing.

Future Prospects:

BTEC Diplomas are valued by employers and higher education. This qualification is equivalent to 3 A Levels and will give the same UCAS points for University. You can take up a BA course or continue and do a higher BTEC. Past students on the course have gone on to pursue further training both at university and at performing arts school, including, London Studio Centre, Bird College, LIPA, Bath Spa University and Lincoln University. Other students have moved away from the performing arts and have studied courses in Law and PE; one has gone on to train as a paramedic.

Student Feedback:

'We are able to work as part of a team and this increases our confidence.'
'I thoroughly enjoy this course and it has widened my knowledge and pushed me to achieve.'
'I have learned and developed so many skills on this course; I feel confident now to be able to take the next step.'

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Features of the Course:

The course will be delivered via practical and classroom based activities. The Extended Diploma is a vocational course designed to equip students with practical skills needed in this area of work. Students will develop a range of performing skills in the three disciplines of musical theatre – acting, singing and dancing. They will study a wide variety of drama and dance styles, from both a practical and theoretical view point, in order to fully understand the development of the performing arts. Students will be expected to keep an up-to-date portfolio as well as take part in rehearsals and performance, many of which will happen outside of timetabled hours and commitment to the subject is therefore very important.

Core Units:

1. Investigating Practitioners' Work (90 GLH)

2. Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance (90 GLH)

3. Group Performance Workshop (120 GLH)

4. Performing Arts in the Community (90 GLH)

5. Individual Performance Commission (120 GLH)

6. Final Live Performance to an Audience (90 GLH)

7. Employment Opportunities in Performing Arts (120 GLH)

Specialist Units:

10. Jazz Dance Technique (60 GLH)

12. Contemporary Dance Technique (60 GLH)

19. Acting Styles (60 GLH)

23. Singing Technique for Performance (60 GLH)

26. Physical Theatre (60GLH)

27. Musical Theatre Techniques (60 GLH)

Methods of Assessment:

Units 1, 3, 5 and 7 are all externally set and externally marked; all other units are internally set and internally marked.