

Arts – Performing Arts

Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre

Core technical qualification

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing

What will you be learning?

The Extended Certificate is designed for learners with an interest in Performing Arts who want to continue their education through applied learning, and aim to progress into higher education. In addition to the performing arts sector-specific content, this qualification provides learners with the opportunity to develop all-rounded performance skills and transferable skills such as self-confidence, personal discipline, self-presentation, time management and organisational skills which are highly regarded by higher education and employers.

Unit 1 – Investigating Practitioners' Work

In this unit you will develop skills that allow you to investigate the work of influential Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre practitioners. You will identify the contextual factors that influence their work and critically analyse key information, such as creative intentions, performance, production and repertoire in order to develop and communicate independent judgments. In this unit you draw on your learning from across your programme to complete assessment tasks.

Unit 2 – Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance

You will explore technical performance skills with a focus on developing skills and techniques in at least two performance styles. You will participate in regular workshops, classes, and exercises where you will acquire, practise and develop the necessary technical, practical and interpretive performance skills to help you to succeed when performing live to an audience. The skills you gain in this unit will prepare you for progression to further study, training or higher education by equipping yourself with practical and technical skills key to the development as a performer.

Unit 3 – Group Performance Workshop

You will explore and integrate creative, physical and vocal skills and techniques, working collaboratively to create a performance in response to a given stimulus. In this unit, you will learn how to respond to a given stimulus as a part of a group, using research, discussion and practical exploration to develop performance material and later present an informal presentation of the work to an invited audience. You will continuously reflect on the development process, considering the success and potential of the work for further development, as well as evaluating your own contribution to the process and product.

Unit 4 – Acting styles (optional)

You will develop acting methods by exploring different acting styles. You will then apply techniques to the development, rehearsal and performance of practical work. This unit will introduce you to the basic differences of a range of styles of theatre and the approaches of theatre practitioners work. This will enable you to create character, interpret lines and develop vocal and physical skills across different styles. You will take part in a number of workshops and sessions to explore these styles.

Unit 4 – Contemporary Dance (optional)

In this unit you will develop the skills needed to be a contemporary dancer by participating in technique classes, rehearsals and performances. You will gain an understanding of this dance style and the key influences on its development through research and practical application. Throughout your learning and development you will be taught how to reflect on your progress and practice, which will support your development as a dancer.

This unit will prepare you for performing in a wide range of dance performances. The skills you develop will be relevant for progression to roles such as a performer, choreographer, community dance artist or teacher as well as to further study.

Methods of assessment

Assessments and projects are chosen to help you progress to the next stage. This means that some are set by the teacher and meet internal needs, whereas others are set by external examiners and assess core skills and understanding. You will be assessed through a combination of practical and written assignments and tasks. This style of assessment is designed to help you analyse and improve skills through the course, build strong study skills, showcase achievements and feel confident about applying knowledge in practical work.

What are lessons like?

Lessons will be a mixture of theoretical lessons and workshop sessions allowing you to fully explore the area you are studying. The lessons will be essentially practical, spending time researching, developing and exploring creative ideas. Having more dedicated time on the timetable to work within the specialism will allow you to delve deeper into your area of expertise and fully challenge your artistic vision. You will spend time coordinating rehearsals, writing scripts, devising new and exciting work alongside learning about the Theatre industry and its various components.

An example project would be: spending time researching and practically exploring a specific practitioner in depth, creating a new piece of work relating to a stimulus, performing to an invited target audience, then working alongside your teacher to evaluate the success.

You may find you are responsible for creating the lighting and overall design of the piece and coordinating with external members of the school about performance spaces and other features.

How will we work with employers and the community?

We will arrange for various professionals within the theatre industry to run workshops and offer hands on experience to the learners. These will provide a more in depth understanding of their subject area and allow pupils to put theory into practice when creating new work.

There will be opportunities to invite various groups of the community in to be part of target audiences and possibilities to link with feeder primary schools to help create future audiences.

Where can this pathway lead?

The BTEC Level 3 is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that included other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels. This course can enable you to move into Higher Education or into employment opportunities within the performing arts sector. BTEC National 3 will help learners build the employability skills and confidence they will need to thrive in their chosen career path.

Many of our past students have gone on to study Dance, Acting and Physical Theatre Courses at Diploma and Degree level. Students have also utilised skills developed during Performing Arts courses in a wide range of further education studies or transitioned into the Performing Arts industry.