

BTEC First Diploma in Performing Arts (Performance)

Introduction

A BTEC First course is practical and work-related. This means you learn from doing practical/hands on assignments and projects which are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. So you develop the vocational skills suited to the subject area. Most students take this course because they plan to continue to study performing arts at advanced level in college and beyond this in higher education. The course is taught by teachers with strong vocational experience and involves working with visiting professional artists. You should see the course as a stepping stone to higher level work in this field.

A BTEC First is a very well established qualification that is equivalent to 4 GCSE passes at grade C or above. At the end of the course you are awarded a pass, merit or distinction for your years work.

This course is a full time course, but often students do Maths or English GCSE re-sits alongside it to ensure qualification for advanced level study.

Year 1

This is a one year course. Your final grade is based on the marks from the three compulsory units plus three optional units.

The specialist units with drama involved are Devising Plays and Acting. Music is included within Devising and the Musical Theatre unit. During the course you will have the opportunity to cover a range of areas in dance; Understanding Dance, Performing Dance and Contemporary Dance.

The compulsory units are:

The Performing Arts Production Process, where you create the performance, set, lighting, props, sound, marketing etc. Here you will prepare a portfolio of documents which cover areas such as budgets, press releases, publicity and marketing. These units have a

very vocational focus that will allow you to develop your skills and knowledge in the performing arts field.

The specialist units enable you to study in more depth particular areas of dance, drama and music. Again these have a highly practical focus based on ways of working in the performing arts industry. All students study specialist units in most of the following:

- Devising Plays
- Acting
- Musical Theatre
- Understanding Dance
- Performing Dance
- Contemporary Dance
- Exploring computer systems used by Musicians

Assessment

All the work is internally assessed. Units are graded individually and then the best marks are added together to form the overall grade for the whole course

Specific Entry Criteria

Standard college requirements for an intermediate level programme.