

BTEC National Diploma in Performing Arts

Introduction

A BTEC National Diploma is a practical, work-related course. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. The course is designed for students who have made a firm decision that they would like to concentrate on developing their skills and knowledge in this area. As well as learning about this area of employment, you develop the skills you need to enter a career in performing arts.

The BTEC National Diploma 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. BTEC National Diplomas are valued by employers and higher education (universities and colleges).

If you want to get a job straight away you could work in a variety of areas including administration, workshop leadership or performance support.

If you decide to go to university or college you could take a degree or a BTEC Higher National in subjects such as:

Performing Arts
Performance Design and Management
Media Performance

The BTEC National Diploma is usually studied on its own; if you wish you can take an additional AS or GCSE subject in the first year.

Year 1

The course is made up of eighteen units – six core units which everyone takes and twelve specialist units. The core unit in Performing (Major Project) counts as two units. The specialist units enable you to study particular areas in depth.

All students take the six core units:

Performance Workshop
The Performing Arts Business
The historical context of performance
Rehearsing for performance
Performing to an audience

You also take twelve specialist units over the two years. These will be chosen from a broad range of options to reflect the interests of the students; these range from acting and devising to jazz dance and theatre for children.

Year 2

Year two involves completion of a further nine units; including script writing, choreography and film and TV acting. By this stage students will have greater freedom to pursue their own interests and strengths.

Assessment

All units are assessed and graded and an overall grade for the qualification is awarded. The majority of the work is internally assessed.

Specific Entry Criteria

Grade C in English Language.