

Performance Studies AS/A level

Introduction

Performance Studies is a popular subject at both AS and A level. Students develop skills in the three disciplines of Dance Drama and Music, and learn to analyse and evaluate through practical work and theory. The course will also develop confidence, good communication and group-work skills.

To succeed on the course you will need to be enthusiastic, open to new experience, and prepared to work hard, both practically and academically.

We arranged a rich programme of visits and in-house workshops with professional practitioners which will develop your knowledge and understanding of performance styles and approaches – and are also really enjoyable.

Year 1

Unit 1 – G401 Creating Performance

Introduction to skills in Dance Drama and Music, taught by specialist tutors. You will devise a three-minute group performance in each discipline using techniques you have learnt in class. You will create a group performance integrating all three disciplines based on a subject related to the community – only this performance will be assessed.

The performances will be videoed and we will analyse them together.

You will then write c.3000 words of coursework in which you analyse and evaluate the work you have done on the four performances.

Unit 2 – G402 Performance Contexts I

You will specialise in Drama and EITHER Dance OR Music for the rest of the year. You will study set work by important practitioners both practically and academically. Assessed in a 2-hour written exam at the end of the year.

Year 2

Unit 3 – G403 Performance Contexts 2

You will study a period in the arts through working both practically and academically on 9 extracts (3 in Dance, 3 in Drama and 3 in Music) from works by important practitioners.

Assessed by a 2-hour written exam at the end of the year.

Unit 4 – G404 Performance Project

There will be 2 performance assessments:

- 1) One of the works you have studied in either Performance Context 1 or 2.
- 2) An original piece devised in response to a commission set by the exam board.

Assessment

Assessed by a visiting examiner towards the end of the Spring term.

Specific Entry Criteria

Grade C in English Language.