



WELCOME TO THE DANCE DEPARTMENT

A-Level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity. Dance creates strong critical thinkers who are adaptable and able to find solutions. Performance in dance builds confidence, creates strong teamwork skills and allows students to learn how to create and meet challenges. All of these are sought after skills by higher education and employers and will help them stand out from the crowd in the workplace whatever their choice of career.

A-Level dance students have access to a fully equipped dance studio, and The Cripps Theatre for performances. A-Level dance is an AQA qualification.

COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into two components: **Component 1** 50% (practical examination comprising of two performance pieces and creating a group choreography) and **Component 2** 50% written paper examination (a critical analysis of differing dance genres and choreography over specified periods of time)

Within the A-Level dance course students will undertake the following:

Year 12- Component 1

Solo and group performances in the style of modern/contemporary and jazz dance practitioners and choreography

Year 12- Component 2

Study and research of modern dance practitioners and the origins of Modern/Contemporary dance and its development in America and in Britain. The focus is on Christopher Bruce and Richard Alston.

Study of American Jazz dance practitioners researching the origins and the development of American Jazz dance in the movie musicals. Key practitioners studied are Gene Kelly, Bob Fosse, and Jerome Robbins

Dance analysis of the set work Singin' in the Rain- Gene Kelly

Year 13- Component 1

Responding to exam board questions to create group choreography. Preparation for the performance examination.

Year 13- Component 2

Further study and research of modern dance practitioners, the development of Contemporary dance in Britain and the importance of Rambert Dance Company. Glen Tetley, Robert North, Richard Alston, and Christopher Bruce.

Dance analysis of the set work Rooster – Christopher Bruce

Revision of all Component 2 content for the written paper examination

1. **Component 1 Performance and Choreography**

Performance -You will develop and apply the knowledge and skills required to perform dance, as a soloist and in a quartet. You will study specified practitioners (Fosse, Kelly, Robbins, Alston, Bruce) analysing their technique and choreographic approaches. Your solo exam performance will be in the style of a specified practitioner. You will also perform as part of a quartet for the exam. In Year 12 you will be given the experience to dance and present work in live performances in preparation for the live exams in Year 13.

Choreography – You will develop the skills required to create an original piece of group choreography in response to your selected examination question.

2. **Component 2 –Critical Engagement**

You will study the prescribed set works (Singin' in the Rain and Rooster), critically engaging with dance, understanding the interrelationship between the creation, presentation, and viewing/appreciation of dance. You will also develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of American Jazz dance and Modern/Contemporary dance through time and location, relating to features of genre including style, technique, influences, and key practitioners. You will sit a written exam paper that will require you to write three essays and to respond to a set of short answer questions.

Transition Home Learning task

To prepare you for the critical engagement content of the course you should undertake reading and research on the key practitioners that you will study. Find out about the influences that shaped choreographers Gene Kelly, Bob Fosse, Jerome Robbins, Christopher Bruce, Richard Alston, and Glen Tetley. Watch their work!

You do not need to hand in any written notes but keep your research in a folder ready for discussions in theory lesson.

To prepare you for the performance and choreography content of the course you should prepare 4 counts of 8 of choreography to the song 'It Means Beautiful' from the musical 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' (A link to the music on YouTube is below) and be prepared to teach it to your peers. This will help you to get to know each other, break the ice and have fun learning about each other as dancers. This music offers a steady 8 count beat but also the opportunity to create more complex accented beats through the string sounds and lyrics. Use musicality to enhance your preferred style when you create ideas. You can choose any moment in the song to choreograph to, it does not have to be the opening section.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHgj04SgbuU>

