A LEVEL DANCE
Exam Board: AQA

Sixth Form

Where do I start from?

For this subject you will be expected to have gained a Grade 6 for Dance if you studied this at GCSE. English Language or English Literature Grade 5 is required. Maths minimum Grade 4 is acceptable. You should have previous experience in dance, with a desire to improve your technical and physical skill level. The confidence to perform dance and work effectively in a group and independently is essential. You should enjoy the appreciation of live dance performance and professional works plus have the ability to communicate your contextual understanding through written communication and in performance.

What will I study?

There are 2 components;

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 in depth, analysing their technique and choreographic approaches. Your solo performance will be in the style of a specified practitioner. You will also perform as part of a quartet in a specific dance style (such as Jazz/Urban, Contemporary/Ballet).

   Choreography – You will learn how to create an original piece of group choreography in response to an examination question.

2. **Component 2 –Critical Engagement**

   You will study prescribed set works, 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 dance through time and location, relating to features of genre including: style, technique, influences and key practitioners.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 – marked by AQA (50%)

- Practical examination. Live performance of solo, quartet and own choreography marked by a visiting examiner.

Component 2 – marked by AQA (50%)

- Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes.
- Short answer and essay questions on compulsory set works and all areas of dance study.

How will I study?

Lessons will vary in style depending on the topic, though practical classes will be the main approach to teaching and learning along with rehearsals outside of lessons. You will need to be an independent learner creating structured notebooks, reflecting on your own dance practice and learning. You will be expected to undertake wider reading around the practitioners and set study areas, along with personal research into exam questions for your own choreography.

What does the subject combine well with?

Dance combines well with Psychology, Biology, PE, History and English, as well as Arts subjects; Art, Music, Drama or Photography.

A Level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. All of these are sought after skills by higher education and employers and will help them stand out in the workplace whatever their choice of career.