

# Dance

## A Level

AQA Advanced Subsidiary (AS) | Advanced Level (AS)  
Head of Performing Arts Department– Claire Nevers

You should do this course if.....

You love to dance! You should have previous experience of dance from outside classes or at school. Ideally you will already be taking regular contemporary, ballet or jazz classes.

You possess an imaginative and enquiring mind and wish to learn how to create your own dances.

You should enjoy watching a range of professional dance works from different styles. You should wish to extend your knowledge and understanding of dance from currently popular choreographers and companies and also from the past.

You want to develop critical thinking skills about dance as an art form, and to write clearly and concisely.

### Skills you will develop on this course

Create imaginative dances with an understanding of current and past practice.

Perform and interpret dance demonstrating technical and expressive skills, and safe practice

Communicate clearly in writing a knowledge and understanding of choreographic and performance process in own or professional work; analyse and compare professional works.

Appreciate the significance of own and professional work; understand contextual influences on dance.

Topics studied

#### UNIT 1 - (AS)

- The dancer as performer; knowledge and understanding of the demands made in practice and performance on the dancer
- The process and craft of choreography
- The significance of dances

#### UNIT 2 - (AS)

- The process of solo choreography from investigation and research ideas through to finished dance
- Physical and interpretative skills in relation to performance of the solo choreography
- Performance skills in a duo or trio

#### UNIT 3 – (A2)

- Investigating one area of study from –ballet, contemporary dance or jazz dance
- Critical analysis and appreciation of one set work

#### UNIT 4 – (A2)

- Group choreography from investigation and research ideas to finished dance
- Solo performance skills in relation to a specific a practitioner within a specific area of dance study prescribed for Unit 3.

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## How will you learn?

You will have weekly practical classes in dance techniques and choreography. Much of the course will be taught through practical workshops, but you will also be highlighting handouts; taking notes from presentations, textbooks, video analysis; group research and presentations; using past A level stimulus-response and essay questions; Library and Internet research; discussion; reading newspaper/magazine reviews; exercises / questions set by your teacher; re-reading notes taken in class.

You will take part in dance theatre trips and have workshops with professional artists. There will be opportunities to perform dance to an audience.

## Where does the course lead?

A Level Dance prepares students for degree courses within dance and the performing arts. For the most able practically, it may lead to a dance course at a vocational college like Laban, or London Contemporary Dance School. Having built up a range of specialist knowledge you will be equipped to lead a healthy life style, experience the joy of exercise and expression through dance and become an informed member of the dance theatre audience.

## Assessment and Exams

### Unit 1 – 20% total A level marks

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes.

Structured and essay style questions on the dancer as performer, the process and craft of choreography and significance of dances.

### Unit 2 – 30% total A level marks

Practical coursework: Students answer two questions:

- 1) Perform and choreograph a solo dance
- 2) Perform in a duo or group dance

### Unit 3 – 25% total A level marks

A2 Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

Students answer questions from two sections; one on a chosen area of study within ballet, contemporary dance or jazz dance and one on the set work studied.

### Unit 4 – 25% total A level marks

Practical exam: 1) Students choreograph a group dance from a series of questions set by the exam board; 2) Perform a solo dance which demonstrates understanding of performance style linked to a practitioner from the areas of study in unit 3.

## Entry Requirements

5C's at GCSE.

You should have recent, regular dance experience in contemporary, ballet or jazz techniques.