

2026-27 Course Details **Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (BTEC National)**



The Performing Arts business is the third largest industry in this country and Performing Arts is a stepping stone into this exciting and diverse area of work. Though the course is primarily aimed at any student with a passion for drama and theatre, it is also suitable for students looking to diversify their subject choices and improve key transferable skills.

Employers in many areas such as Sales and Marketing, Public Relations and Teaching are increasingly seeking the strong communication and inter-personal skills acquired through drama. You could also follow a career path into the industry with diverse roles on offer including theatre management, marketing, lighting, directing, arts funding, costume, staging and writing. Furthermore, the majority of universities including Oxford, Cambridge and Russell Group universities, accept UCAS points gained on this course and those wishing to specialise can apply for degrees in Acting, Directing, Technical Theatre or Stage Management.

Qualities and qualifications needed

Students are required to have a grade 5 GCSE in English Language and English Literature due to the extensive writing required. A GCSE grade 5 in Drama or a demonstrable interest in Performing Arts is desirable.

Students will need to display a range of skills including working with others, interpretation of texts, analysis and evaluation. They must also be willing to perform and commit to working with other students in rehearsal beyond the classroom. Students will be expected to participate in school performances.

How will the course be assessed?



The assessment for this course is divided into four units

- Unit 1 – Identifying Practitioners:
External written examination.
- Unit 2 – Developing Skills:
Internal examination – developing skills for performance.
- Unit 3 – Group Performance Workshop:
External practical examination – performance to a set brief – internal assessment.
- Choice Unit:
Internal examination – classic text, movement, variety performance or musical theatre. Selection depends on the strength of the students.



Course Content

Students will:

- Create, perform and respond to drama and theatre.
- Develop the creativity and independence to become effective theatre makers.
- Explore the relationship between theory and practice in a range of theatrical styles and periods and historical, social and cultural contexts.
- Learn how relevant research, independent thought and analysis of live theatre production can inform decision-making in their practical work and put this understanding into practice.
- Experience the ways in which theatre makers collaborate to create theatre.
- Experience live theatre throughout the course of study.
- Have the ability to learn independently.
- Have the ability to research actively and methodically.
- Be able to give presentations and being active group members.



Examinations

Unit 1

Written examination paper.

Unit 2

Performance examination and progress log.

Unit 3

Performance and evaluation.

Choice Unit

Performance and progress log.

Methods of curriculum delivery

Inquiry-based learning, personalised and differentiated instruction, demonstration, Flip Learning, discussion and evaluation of performances, practical exploration.
