



Curriculum Intent: Performing Arts

Art is not a mirror held up to reality but a hammer with which to shape it. - Bertolt Brecht

Curriculum Rationale

Our curriculum intent across Performing Arts is to provide students with the skills and techniques that enables growth and development to generate creative and ambitious performers. We strive to promote a love for the Arts whilst insisting upon academic rigour. Through quality first teaching, with a focus on modelling and direct practice, pupils are encouraged to develop their curiosity, creativity and leadership.

Retrieval Practice and recall techniques are used to embed both subject specific language and prior learning. In Ks3, both Music and Drama courses introduce skills and concepts that are delivered inconsistently at Ks2 – with the aim of creating a love for these 'new' subjects. As the course progresses through to Y9 the structure of delivery alters to reflect the Btec units that are delivered, should learners choose Performing Arts as an option.

All Performing Arts year groups now use the PEL model of evaluation to reflect how they will succeed at Ks4

Music:

The Music curriculum allows students to experience and explore a range of musical styles and instruments through different topics and stimuli. In Music, students are challenged to discover their natural talents and are supported in developing their musical knowledge and skills.

The curriculum focuses primarily on three key areas: performing, composing, and listening. Students complete practical activities as well as engaging in listening & evaluating activities. The curriculum also offers a wide range of musical experiences to support the student's understanding of the historical importance and cultural significance of music.

Drama:

The Drama curriculum is designed to encourage students to explore Social, Cultural, and Historical contexts through practical exploration.

Ks3 Learners engage in the devising, performing, and evaluative cycle that is replicated at Ks4. We hope to develop a foundation of both knowledge and social skills to ensure success for future Btec students, and to also provide all learners with the confidence and ability to express themselves within the ever-changing landscape of the world in which we live.

All year groups now have a clear non-negotiable when it comes to achieving a minimum level in the performance strand, but we have moved away from the previous model of sanctioning non-compliance. We now have an inclusive mindset to encourage final performance rather than force.

The Performing Arts Curriculum strives to promote a love for the Arts. Our ambitious curriculum is designed to encourage our children to discover and explore the links between all the disciplines of Music and Drama. Our mission is to provide students with that support their personal growth. Through quality first teaching, pupils are encouraged to develop their curiosity, creativity and leadership.

Curriculum Progression & Strategies

For some of our students, this may be the first time that they are studying our subjects and it is important that we create a safe space and environment for them to explore the arts. The KS3 curriculum builds upon student's practical ability.

Students are encouraged to reflect on their own work and the work of others. Our subjects cross curricular through texts, topics and themes. Students are also given the opportunity to attend extra-curricular sessions in addition to curriculum time.

It is important that we support students in understanding the benefits of choosing Performing Arts at Key Stage 4 and encourage those who are showing interest and have a natural ability in the three key areas, creating, performing and evaluating. We continue to promote and embed transferable skills into our schemes of work supporting student's pathways to further education and the performing arts industry.

Curriculum Enrichment

- School Band – Every Monday
- Choir Club – Every Monday - with two public performances happening in Dec (NEC & Heartlands Hospital)
- Drama Club – Every Thursday P5, this is typically rehearsal for the annual Musical performance
- Peri Music Lessons – up to 72 different students taught a combination of six different instruments across the week
- Little Shop of Horrors - the Musical – an initial cast of 73 learners applied for an audition pack – rehearsals taking place weekly, moving to twice weekly in the lead up to the July performance
- Btec Showcase – Selected performances shown to an invited audience in December & May
- Y9 Birmingham Rep – 40 Y9 students to participate in 9 hours of performance workshops with a professional theatre company, including a tour of, and performance on, a professional stage – February onwards
- Theatre Visit – Selected Y10, Y11, Y9 & Y8 students to watch and evaluate live performance - December