

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts Faculty incorporates Dance, Drama and Music. By including all of these subjects in one faculty, we aim to promote a passion and understanding of all three disciplines and maximise opportunities for cross-over between the disciplines in order to enhance students' learning and progress.

Curriculum

Each week, all Year 7 and 8 students receive an hour in each of the Performing Arts (Dance, Drama and Music). The KS3 curriculum is designed to inspire creativity and promote a love of music, dance and drama through a varied and broad range of schemes of learning. Our students are encouraged to build confidence and expertise through a balance of theoretical and practical learning. The KS3 curriculum introduces students to a broad range of genre and styles that allow students to understand core concepts that shape each of music, dance and drama and that promotes students building a strong knowledge and understanding of the concepts being explored within each scheme of learning.

Students begin GCSEs in Year 9 and have the opportunity to continue their studies in dance, drama and music (all subjects follow the AQA specification). In Year 9, when starting their GCSEs, students work additionally towards the Arts Award Bronze qualification which is nationally recognised and accredited. Students who are excelling in the Arts are offered the opportunity to work towards the Arts Award Silver qualification. At Key Stage 5 students can opt to take BTEC Music Performance, A Level Drama and BTEC Performing Arts (dance focused) as part of our ever growing 6th form.

Extra-curricular Activities

The Faculty offers an exciting and expansive range of lunchtime and after-school clubs, including in music our school band and school choir, Harmonix, alongside String Ensemble, Flute Choir and KS3 and KS4 vocal ensembles. We have a large of dance companies and drama companies including Company 21 and Troika. These extra-curricular activities provide students will extra opportunity to develop their talent within the Performing Arts and give regular performance opportunities for our students, both within the school community and within the local community. There are opportunities within the Faculty for students to take on leadership roles to run extra-curricular activities and to take responsibility for our annual House Performing Arts event, which is entirely student run. This highly anticipated event is always hotly contested by the three houses, with students showcasing the very best of their leadership skills and talent within the Performing Arts.

Alongside extra-curricular opportunities, there are a number of high profile events within the school calendar which large numbers of students participate in. These include our Summer and Winter Concerts, our annual school show and Dance Festival, which sees the whole of KS3 participate alongside companies and KS4 and KS5.

All students are able to choose to take instrumental and vocal lessons, with specialist peripatetic teachers from the Berkshire Music Trust (the local Music Hub) and private teachers coming into school each week. Numbers of students taking lessons are growing each year. During the Summer Term, the annual Musician of the Year and Singer of the Year competition takes place, with all nominees performing our Summer Concert before the winners are announced.

Staff and the accommodation

The Faculty comprises of eight members of staff including a dedicated Performing Arts technician. We also utilise links with outside agencies, peripatetic staff and professionals including 'Artists in Residence' regularly in order to offer exciting and inspiring enrichment opportunities to further engage and drive our students' passion in the arts forward.

Our accommodation features a range of facilities across the school, including a purpose-built Performing Arts block with two Music classrooms and seven practice rooms, a Recording Studio and Drama Studio; an additional Dance/Drama space and a state-of-the-art Dance Studio. Alongside this, the Main Hall is utilised for the many performances that take place throughout the academic year.

Faculty Ethos

Creativity, excellence and passion for the arts are at the heart of the Performing Arts Faculty. Through challenging and inspiring curriculums, supported with a range of extra-curricular and exciting enrichment opportunities, students are able to build their knowledge, confidence and resilience in order to progress toward aspirational goals and exceed their potential.