

Performing Arts | Curriculum Statement 2023-2024

Build resilience, self-reliance and perseverance	Raise aspirations and promote "self-challenge"	Experience a broad range of subjects and learning opportunities	Increase the "cultural capital" of students	Support Mental Health and Wellbeing	Develop deeper understanding and a love of learning and self-development.

Curriculum Intent

Performing Arts at Sandwell Academy is a fast paced, creative and inspiring subject that offers students the opportunity to gain and build a range of skills in areas of dance, drama and music. We pride ourselves in helping students develop practically as performers and give them the knowledge to deepen their understanding of the Performing Arts industry and history. We want students to develop a passion for Performing Arts and the industry and to capture their interest from the start. Throughout Performing Arts students will build resilience and independence in a range of practical activities. They will have to use rehearsal time given to make improvements and appreciate that they will need to persevere and trust that they will achieve. Performing Arts can help boost student's confidence and help them feel a part of a community. An example of this would be the Academy productions that include a cast of over 100 each year. Being a part of something like that has a positive impact on students in many ways.

The Performing Arts Curriculum is designed to inspire students to:

- Create work using imagination, making judgements for the demands of the work.
- Develop physical, vocal, stylistic and interpretative skills in relation to current works or repertoire.
- Learn many useful transferable skills including teamwork, leadership and communication.
- Review skills and techniques gained in rehearsal and performance, which is essential for students to gain a deeper understanding of their abilities and progression opportunities.
- Be encouraged to pursue a career within Performing Arts, through further education and/or training.

During a time where students were required to work from home or in a range of different venues, students missed out on practical activities to develop in Performing Arts. All students within their Dance, Drama and Music lessons will need to have engaging, enjoyable yet challenging activities to allow them to bridge the gap between what they have missed out on and where they should be.

Implementation

KS3 Year 7, 8 and 9

Across KS3 students are encouraged to push themselves out of their comfort zone to learn and develop a range of new skills in all three disciplines of Performing Arts. Students participate in practical sessions in dance, drama and music and are encouraged to think creatively at all times. Performing Arts lessons take place as part of a half termly between dance/drama and music. Students are in mixed gender and mixed ability classes to encourage collaboration with others and promote

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the development of social and independent skills. In KS3 students build on the basics and learn how to choreograph, devise and compose while also recreating existing repertoire from professional shows/scripts/songs or from teacher led activities. In all three disciplines students are given an insight into the industry and a chance to explore work from professionals.

KS4 Year 10 and 11

During Year 10 and Year 11 students use the skills that they have acquired in previous years to create a whole piece of performance from a given stimulus as part of an external assessment. Throughout the time in Year 10 students will also be assessed on the Academy production which they take a lead on and use for assessment purposes for their course. It is during this time that students demonstrate disciplined and organised development of skills and techniques for performance during workshops and rehearsals. In KS4 students will be expected to complete activities of a more vigorous nature and of a higher quality. Overall each student that chooses Performing Arts as an option will get a taste of what it's like to be a professional actor, dancer or musical theatre performer. They develop skills and techniques in the chosen discipline(s) of acting, dance and musical theatre and also consider how practitioners adapt their skills for different contexts, and put this into practice in a performance.

For those students that opt for Music at KS4 they are given the opportunity to explore musical styles and techniques, and gain an understanding of roles in the industry. They develop musical knowledge, skills, and techniques and apply them to a music product and put skills into practice by responding to a brief as a composer, performer or producer. Throughout the entire course they build and develop skills to become musicians.

KS5

In Years 12 and 13 students will study BTEC National in Performing Arts to the equivalent of 1 or 2 A-levels. The skills developed in KS3 and KS4 are then transferable to this qualification and built on further. Intense practical and theory sessions are led by teachers to further develop knowledge and the works of specific practitioners. They will assess the stylistic qualities of practitioners' work using considered examples to show how roles, responsibilities and skills contribute to creative intentions and purpose across three performance styles. Students also take the lead with the Academy productions for assessment purposes and are encouraged to perform as often as they can. Over the two years' students will grow as performers and have confidence to devise stylistic work from scratch, going above and beyond with creative ideas.

Students can also study BTEC National Extended Certificate in Music Performance where they undertake composition, performance, analysis and evaluative tasks. The course consists of 3 mandatory units and an optional unit which is selected based on students' attributes. The assessments are a mix of coursework, exam and practical performances/compositions and musical arrangements.

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Impact

Achievements in the Performing Arts department are positive and the course is extremely popular especially at Key Stage 4 with over 30 students in each year group. This is due to the basics of each discipline being embedded with the students from Key Stage 3 and the expectations of how we work as a department. The Academy productions are a massive part of our Academic year and are always successful allowing students to complete part of their assessment in an enjoyable way, leaving them with long lasting memories.