

Here at RPHS the Dance department is dedicated to creating an exciting yet progressive curriculum that celebrates culture, history and differences. We aim to provide students with an inspiring education that challenges creativity, knowledge and skills building on student's collaborative skills, teamwork and passion. Dance embraces diversity and inclusivity, welcoming students from all backgrounds and encouraging them to explore a range of different dance styles from across the world. Dance empowers students to try something new and we want students to be creative thinkers and innovators feeling able to push boundaries of skills and techniques. There are opportunities throughout our curriculum for students to engage in dance including within our Enrichment programme, providing students with the opportunity to partake in competitions, showcases and musicals.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Students have one lesson per week dedicated to Dance; this is part of a carousel with Music and Drama. Each subject in the Performing Arts is studied for a full term. During KS3, students explore a variety of skills and styles of dance. In Year 7 students are introduced to the basic choreographic skills in dance and how to build movement content. Students also have the opportunity to experience a range of dance styles including African Dance, Charleston, Hip Hop, Bollywood, Carnival, Capoeira etc. They will be tasked to learn set repertoire and creatively develop this to include their own ideas and choreography. Year 8 will introduce students to professional works including The Nutcracker and Swansong. Students will gain knowledge of the technical aspects and themes of the works and learn how to choreograph dance using a theme. They will also investigate visual, kinaesthetic and auditory stimuli's and how to use these successfully to create Dance. This will lead into Year 9 where students will practically explore a range of choreographic themes including Manipulation & Control, Power, Trapped and Equality. Lessons will focus heavily on personal interpretation and collaboration. We complete Year 9 by looking at personal expression and identity through dance, taking inspiration from different styles of Dance and watching a range of professional works.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

In dance, students study the BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts- Dance. This course is designed to equip students with knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. Students will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and key skills when reproducing repertoire and responding to a stimulus. Students will be encouraged to develop ideas through rehearsal and performance and effectively use skills, processes and attitudes. They will be introduced to aspects of the performing arts industry including roles, responsibilities, performance disciplines and styles and will be exposed to many performance opportunities including the RPHS Winter Showcase, KS4 Dance Evening and the Whole School Musical.

Extended Learning

What we offer to extend the learning of our students

- A Winter Performance Showcase that provides students with performance opportunities and choreographic experiences.
- KS4 Dance Evening giving students the opportunity to perform curriculum work for assessment purposes and also an opportunity to perform their own choreography utilising their personal experiences in dance.
- An annual whole-school production that brings together all of the performing arts disciplines.
- Smaller events such as competitions, concerts, and performances throughout the calendar year.
- Extra-curricular clubs such KS3 Step into Dance group
- 1-1 intervention at KS4
- Trips to Performing Arts events.
- Career advice for KS4 for work experience and further courses/careers in the Performing Arts

What can parents do to support extended learning in this subject?

- Find opportunities to take your child to performing arts events such as dance performances, concerts, plays and musicals.
- Discounted events and ticket lotteries can be found on apps such as TodayTix. You can even attend events such as WestEndLive in Trafalgar Square which is an annual free event and has performances from many West End shows.
- Speak to Mrs Davis if you are interested in further information about external Dance Clubs/Classes in the area.
- Watch live performances using streaming platforms such as YouTube, BBC iPlayer, Apple TV, Disney+ and Netflix. The BBC often showcases some fantastic live dance and theatre
- Discuss the origin and history that surrounds dance styles. This understanding of history (even if recent) is essential for our students to learn.