St Benedict's Sixth Form

A Level Dance

Course Description

A Level Dance provides students with the opportunity to gain experience of performance, choreography and to develop critical thinking about dance as an art form. Students will learn and perform a solo performance in the style of a dance artist which will explore their stylistic features. Students will also learn to perform as part of a quartet and create a group choreography in response to an externally set task. Students will study one compulsory set work within the compulsory area of study and one optional set work within the corresponding area of study, from a choice of four that cover a range of styles.

Skills Attained

A Level Dance students can expect a really broad experience developing their training as a dancer and experiencing dance in its many forms. A significant part of the course includes Critical Appreciation; which is the academic study of dance. Writing exercises throughout the course prepare the students for being able to answer extended questions to prepare them for essay writing and developing literacy in terms of dance-specific terminology. Students will also develop their performance skills both as a soloist and also within a quartet throughout the two years with regular training in dance technique; exploring the styles of existing practitioners in order to develop a personal performance style. Choreographic skills will be developed further to create a group dance.

Assessment

Component 1: Performance and choreography. A Practical exam which is worth 80 marks and is worth 50% of A-level. This includes: A solo performance (20 marks), a performance in a quartet (20 marks) and a group choreography (40 marks).

Component 2: Critical engagement is assessed through the demonstration of knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two set works. A Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes which is worth 100 marks and 50% of A-level. Section A: short answer questions (25 marks) and one essay question (25 marks) on the compulsory set work/area of study. Section B: two essay questions on the second set work/area of study (25 marks for each essay).





Progression

Dance is a popular art form and there are many degree courses which offer creative and technical training at both Universities and Conservatoires which are highly respected throughout the world.

Both National and International students will audition for these courses. Many degree courses have very strong links with current dance companies and have resources and facilities which allow exciting and experimental work to develop and be performed in professional settings.

If you do not wish to follow a dance degree option then the skills you have acquired and developed will help you to continue on many other pathways helping you to have confidence, be articulate and present yourself assertively. A Dance A Level will complement many other courses and the analytical skills and critical thinking involved will transfer to other subjects that you will study. A Dance A Level will also demonstrate a well rounded education that allows future educational establishments and employers to see that you have the ability to be creative, confident, organised, motivated and self disciplined.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE Dance Grade 5 or previous dance ability confidence and experience.

Exam Board: AQA

lrollings@sbsj.co.uk