

Dance: A-level (Awarding Body AQA)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of GCSE English at grade 5 or above. GCSE Dance at grade 5 or above is preferable, but not essential. However, previous experience in dance training is essential as practical expectations are very high on this course. It is important that you are open to working in new styles, and have a keen interest in critically studying dance history and repertoires in depth. Students must be prepared to perform within lessons and to a wider audience in both a group and as a solo.

CONTENT

Component 1 - Performance & Choreography:
(Three practical exam performances - 50% of A-level)

- Solo performance linked to a specified practitioner within an area of study
- Performance in a quartet
- Group choreography (created and directed by the student)

Component 2 – Critical Engagement:
(Written exam - 2 hours 30 minutes - 50% of A-level)

Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two set works:

- One compulsory set work (Rooster by Christopher Bruce, 1991) within the compulsory area of study (Rambert Dance Company 1966 - 2002)
- One optional set work (Singin' in the Rain by Stanley Donen & Gene Kelly, 1952) within the corresponding area of study (American Jazz Dance 1940 - 1975).

PROGRESSION

A-level Dance is a respected qualification within the Performing Arts industry and equally, shows admissions tutors and employers in any field that you have creativity, communication skills, discipline and confidence. We have a large legacy of students who have gone on to study Dance at leading Higher Education establishments such as Middlesex University, Dance City (Newcastle) Northern Ballet and Northern School of Contemporary Dance. Many of our alumni have successfully carved out careers in the Arts in roles within performance, choreography and teaching and remain in contact with our Sixth Form.

GENERAL COMMENTS

A-level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. All of these are sought after skills by higher education and employers and will help them stand out in the workplace whatever their choice of career. The A-level reflects both historical and current dance practices, making it more relevant, and inspires a lifelong passion and appreciation for dance.

We have excellent dance facilities at Richmond Sixth Form: a purpose-built dance studio, plus other large rehearsal/ performance spaces and access to the Georgian Theatre. We are able to offer professional workshops, artists-in-residence, participation in festivals, trips to a variety of live performances, audition support and vocational training opportunities.



A-level Dance helped me massively in pursuing my goals for university and beyond. The dance training I received was key to my success in auditions and helped me to get accepted into several universities and conservatoires. The course itself is very helpful in preparing you for a university way of studying as it teaches you to balance your training, theory work and taking care of yourself both mentally and physically.

I really enjoyed the two years I spent studying A-level, it gave me my first opportunity to be fully creative and express myself in ways I have always wanted to. I could not recommend it more!

BRANDON SUTHERLAND-PARKER
(Alumnus 2017-2019, graduated from Dance Performance course at Middlesex University in 2022)

