



DANCE (AQA)

Level of study: A-Level

Description of Course

A-Level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team work, communication and problem solving. All of these are sought after skills by both higher education and employers, helping students to stand out in the workplace whatever their choice of career.

This specification reflects both historical and current dance practices and inspires a lifelong passion and appreciation for dance. We recognise the ever changing dance world and therefore provide training in a wide range of contemporary dance techniques, including Graham, Cunningham, Horton and Release. Choreography examination tasks are set to encourage student exploration of a vast array of topics and promote the skills of research and development in order to create imaginative and engaging works.

A-Level Dance has both practical and theoretical examinations. Theory exam questions take on variety of forms, including short questions and extended writing. Topics covered include the historical study of Rambert, the iconic work Rooster by Christopher Bruce, the Independent British Dance scene and work by Matthew Bourne and Akram Khan.

The A-Level Dance specification requires students to develop, demonstrate and articulate practical and theoretical knowledge, understanding and experience of:

- Technical and performance skills
- The process and art of choreography
- The interrelationship between the creation, presentation and viewing/appreciation of dance works
- The development of dance placed within an artistic and cultural context
- Professional dance works and the significance of these works

Subject specific terminology and its use.

Outline:

2.2 Assessments - students must complete both assessment components

Component 1: Performance and Choreography: Assessed in the Spring of Year 13

What's assessed?

- Solo performance linked to a specified practitioner within an area of study
- Performance in a quartet
- Group choreography

How it's assessed

- Practical exam
- 80 marks
- 50% of A Level



Component 2 Critical engagement: Assessed in the Summer of Year 13

What's assessed?

- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two sets of works
- One compulsory set work within the compulsory area of study
- One optional set work within the corresponding area of study, from a choice of four.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of A-Level

Skills Required:

The course demands a high level of commitment, concentration and sensitivity. You need to be able to evaluate and appreciate past and current professional works. An ability to reflect and evaluate the complexity and significance of both content and process is essential. Full commitment to additional hours of learning such as lunchtime and after school rehearsals is also required.

Entry Qualification:

Ideally you should have studied Dance at GCSE and obtained at least Grade 6. Grade 6 in English GCSE is also advisable due to the demands of the written components. It is possible that you could be considered without a GCSE in Dance, but in this case you would need to be able to demonstrate an aptitude for the subject and understand fully the demands of the course.

Contact Name: Miss S Davis (Head of Dance) sdavis@lpgs.bromley.sch.uk

Educational Progression and Career Opportunity:

Dance A-Level is suitable for anyone wanting to pursue the arts or dance in higher education, or as support for any course requiring good communication and group work skills. In addition to performing, choreography and teaching this course could lead to such diverse careers as physiotherapy, nursing and journalism.

Many of our students are successful graduates on Dance degree courses at universities such as Chichester, Middlesex, Roehampton, Surrey and Winchester. Other students have opted to pursue vocational training at conservatoires such as Trinity Laban and the London Studio Centre and hope to pursue careers as professional dancers.

Note: Auditioning is a requirement for this course, you will be asked to complete a contemporary dance workshop including choreographic tasks set by the teacher.