



## **A level Dance**

### **Who is this course for?**

Anyone who is interested in studying Dance in depth; particularly Contemporary Dance, through the creation of choreography, the performance of independently devised dance works, the analysis of professional dance repertoire, anatomy, and the history of dance.

This course is useful for students who wish to develop their contemporary dance technique and performance skills; their understanding of choreographic devising; and dance appreciation through critical appraisal. Fundamentally it is for students who wish to pursue a dance or performing arts related career.

### **What are the entry criteria**

Students wishing to study the course must have at least five GCSEs at Grade A\* - C and a GCSE average of 5.0. GCSE English Language is required, plus GCSE Maths or Science at Grades A\* - C.

Good written communication skills are essential.

Although some previous dance training would be advantageous, it is not essential. A genuine interest and enthusiasm for Contemporary Dance is more important.

Entry is by successful completion of an audition and attendance at Wyke Start.

### **The Dance department at Wyke Sixth Form College**

The department uses a rehearsal and performance space that has a fully sprung dance floor, mirrors, and sound and lighting facilities. In addition, it also has a small studio space with fully sprung dance floor, mirrors, and sound and lighting equipment for rehearsal. It has access to the college Library and classroom facilities as well as the state of the art college ICT facilities.

The dance staff is:

- Roni Dunleavy (AQA Dance examiner)

## **Exam Board**

AQA

## **Course Details**

### **Module One - Understanding Dance**

The student is required to sit a written exam which is 40% of the AS course. It is externally assessed and takes place in May/June. It examines the students' understanding of the dancer as a performer; the process and craft of choreography; the significance of dances; anatomy and physiology; and music and dance relationships.

### **Module Two – Choreography and Performance**

The student is required to devise practical exam coursework which is 60% of the AS course. It is internally assessed and externally moderated and takes place in Term Two. Section A requires students to independently choreograph and perform a solo dance and submit one side of A4 programme notes. Section B requires students to choreograph and perform in a duo/trio dance.

### **Module Three – Dance Appreciation: Content and Context**

The student is required to sit a written exam which is 50% of the A2 course. It is externally assessed and takes place in June. It examines an area of historical dance study focused on specific practitioners and their associated dance style. In addition, a set professional dance work is analysed in depth within a contextual framework.

### **Module Four – Group Choreography and Solo Performance**

The student is required to devise practical exam coursework which is 50% of the A2 course. It is externally examined and takes place in Term Two. Section A requires students to independently choreograph a group dance and submit one side of A4 programme notes. Section B requires students to independently choreograph and perform a solo dance based on the stylistic features of a chosen practitioner from Module Three and submit one side of A4 programme notes.

## **How the course is delivered**

Students have four lessons a week that combine practical contemporary dance technique and choreography classes with academic theoretical lessons. Extracurricular rehearsal time is required in addition to regularly timetabled lessons.

## Departmental Enrichment

Students must attend professional dance performances and are required to perform at public events. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in the Wyke College Youth Dance Company; complete the Dance Leadership Award; participate in workshops with professional dance companies; audition for the Yorkshire Young Dancers Scheme; participate in the production that tours to Germany as part of the Barntrup Exchange; complete LAMDA acting exams; and gain experience operating sound and lighting equipment.

## Student success

Former student, Charlotte Hanson from South Hunsley School, progressed to the one-year Foundation degree course at Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds. She is currently studying at London Contemporary Dance School based at The Place, London, on the three year degree programme.



## What does this course lead to

Students may progress to Dance related university courses or audition for professional vocational training. Past students have entered the professions of dance performance; education; dance therapy; physical therapy; events management; arts management; and other related careers.

## **What can I do now that would help prepare me for this course?**

Attend as many dance performances as possible in any style, but predominately performances of contemporary dance work.

Gain as much dance performance experience as possible in any style, but predominately performances of contemporary dance.

Read dance articles in The Stage and Television Today or Dance Theatre Journal. In addition, read reviews of dance performances in the national newspapers.