



BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Performing Arts

Who is this course for?

This is a vocational course for students interested in pursuing a career in the Performing Arts or for students that are interested in and enjoy performing and who wish to continue to develop their performing skills. This course emphasises acting, dance and musical theatre performance and can be taken in conjunction with AS level subjects or GCSE re-sits. The course involves detailed study of every aspect of performing. Students must demonstrate a high standard of academic, practical performance and theoretical skills.

The BTEC Level Three Certificate in Performing Arts is a one year full-time course that is the equivalent of an AS-Level. If a student successfully completes the first year (Certificate in Performing Arts equivalent to one AS-Level) they may progress to the second year to complete the full qualification (Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts equivalent to one A-Level).

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 and oral communication skills are essential.

A high level of commitment is required.

Previous performance experience in acting, dance and musical theatre is advantageous.

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

The Performing Arts 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 Performing Arts staff are:

- Chris Gruca (Head of Performing Arts)
- Andy Feetom (Theatre manager/Acting)
- Roni Dunleavy (Dance)
- Liz Carmichael (Singing)
- Dorcas Leather (Accompanist)

Exam Board

Edexcel

Course Details

For the Certificate in Performing Arts, students must satisfactorily complete one mandatory unit (Performing to an Audience), plus an additional two units selected from the following: (Classical Theatre Performance, Contemporary Theatre Performance, Musical Theatre Performance, Principles of Acting, The Performance of Mime, Developing Voice for the Actor, Singing Skills for Actors and Dancers, Dance Performance, Choreographic Principles, Developing Contemporary Dance Technique and Jazz Dance).

For the Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts students must satisfactorily complete all of the above requirements for the Certificate plus an additional three optional units.

The course is 100% continuous assessment with practical and written coursework.

How the course is delivered

Students have four lessons a week that combine practical classes in voice, singing, acting and dance with academic theoretical lessons. Extracurricular rehearsal time is required in addition to regularly timetabled lessons.

Departmental Enrichment

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

Student success

Former student, Emily Thompson from Kelvin Hall School, completed the vocational course with final grades at Distinction. While at Wyke she performed in productions of Godspell, Cinderella, and The Trojan Women. She also toured to Barntrup, Germany, in The Fantasticks! as part of the Barntrup Exchange. Emily decided to pursue musical theatre as a career and auditioned successfully for professional training at Oxford School of Drama where she auditioned for and was awarded an Andrew Lloyd Webber scholarship to support her in her studies.

What does this course lead to

Students may progress to the Su8bsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts. From there they may progress to Dance, Drama, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts related university courses or audition for professional vocational training. Past students have entered the professions of performers; education; media; community arts; events management; and other related careers.

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

Attend as many performances as possible in any style or genre.

Gain as much performance experience as possible in any style, period or genre.

Read articles in The Stage and Television Today. In addition, read reviews of performances in the national newspapers.

Read as many scripts as possible of any period or genre.

Begin to study music theory and learn to read music.

Begin a keep fit programme to develop strength and stamina.