Bay House
Sixth Form

A LEVEL DANCE

Students will demonstrate their ability to draw together their knowledge, skills and understanding to provide original practical responses and provide short and extended written responses. The course requires students to develop a broad and deep understanding of the connections between the knowledge, understanding and skills. Students are required to demonstrate their understanding of the relationships between theory and practice and the ways in which dancers and choreographers make and implement artistic decisions.

The A Level Dance course encourages students to develop:

- their knowledge, understanding and experience of performance, choreography and appreciation of dance as an art form. This will be achieved through exploring and making connections between theory and practice, critically engaging in the analysis of their own work and that of professional repertoire, leading to a holistic approach to the study of the subject.
- the necessary skills as a performer through the areas of technical training and performance development.
- the necessary skills as a choreographer through further experimentation and application of choreographic and structuring devices.
- the necessary skills to engage in critical enquiry about the art form through the areas of written communication, reflection, analysis and evaluation.
- the necessary awareness of safe practice.
- their artistic and historical knowledge of dance in the wider cultural context.

Course breakdown:

Component 1 - Performance and Choreography

Assessment method: Filmed practical exam, 80 marks, 50% of A Level

Component 1(a) – Performance

- Students will perform a solo dance of between two to three minutes.
- Students will perform another dance as a group between three to four minutes.

Component 1(b) – Choreography

- Each student will choreograph a dance based on a stimulus given by the exam board.
- The dance will be between three and four minutes. Students will be asked to create a group dance (3 -5 dancers) of between three and four minutes.

Component 2 - Critical engagement

Assessment method: 2.5 hour written exam, 100 marks, 50% of A Level

A Level Dance requires students to develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of two set works and their corresponding areas of study. The areas of study cover the genres of modern dance, ballet and jazz dance, offering a breadth of study.

Critical engagement with areas of study will enable students to develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of dance through time and location relating to features of genre, including: style, technique, influences, key practitioners, professional repertoire and communication of dance ideas.

Rehearsal commitments

Prospective students should be aware of the extra commitment required for rehearsal and preparation outside of lesson time, prior to public performance of assessed material.

GCSE requirements: -
Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature and/or English Language, (a GCSE or BTEC level 2 in dance at grade 5/ merit or above is preferred but not essential) ***Students need to have a genuine interest in performance/dance and to be prepared to work practically at all times. It is a requirement of the course that students perform to a live audience and this includes performing as a soloist.***