

Year 11 - BTEC LEVEL 1 / 2 TECH AWARD IN PERFORMING ARTS

In the first unit of Yr 11 students will study the component 'Exploring the Performing Arts'. To develop as a designer students will need a broad understanding of performance work and influences. This component will help them to understand the requirements of being a designer across a range of performances and performance styles. Students will look at elements such as roles, responsibilities and the application of relevant skills and techniques. They will broaden their knowledge through observing existing repertoire and by learning about the approaches of practitioners, and how they create and influence performance material. This component will give students an understanding of practitioners' work and the processes and practices that contribute to a range of performance styles. They will develop transferable skills, such as research and communication, which will support their progression to Level 2 or 3 vocational or academic qualifications.

Students will watch and study a number of different performances ranging in style from a National Theatre Children's Show to a West End Musical to Danny Boyle's production of Frankenstein. It is important that students see a range of productions and we feel that these shows demonstrate the use of theatre design to the highest professional level. Students will research the actors, set designers, lighting designers and directors of each of these productions, developing and demonstrating a detailed understanding of each role and how they are intertwined. They will also experiment with staging elements of each production in The Windmill Theatre.

Students will be required to consider the creative stylistic qualities of each production such as treatment of theme, production elements, form, structure and narrative, the style and genre of the production, and the collaboration of practitioners and their influences from other practitioners.

In the second Unit of Yr 11 students will prepare for the external exam. This external component builds on knowledge, understanding and skills acquired and developed in Yr 10 and the first part of Yr 11. Learners will apply their skills and techniques creatively to a workshop performance for a selected audience. Students will capture their ideas on planning, development and effectiveness of the production process in a written log and an evaluation report. Students will be given a brief and stimulus to create performance material as a designer. They will work in conjunction with a group of actors to respond to the stimulus and create a workshop performance that communicates ideas and creative intentions to a target audience of their choice.

The BTEC Performing Arts students will lead their groups and will be the main instigators of ideas. From those ideas the actors will create the performance and the BTEC students will design a technical element around the piece such as lighting or staging. Students will learn to initiate imaginative and appropriate activity and respond fully to all of the requirements of the brief. Students will also be expected to take the initiative and support others in the group, consistently contributing valid ideas to discussions and practical exploration activities. They will aim to effectively and consistently apply appropriate skills and techniques for the style or genre of work.

This unit is taught at the end of the course as we feel the students will have acquired the skills and understanding to be able to work in a creative and non-directed way. They will understand the demands of working in a theatre and will bring these safe practises to bear. Having studied industry practitioners they will also have developed a firm understanding of their chosen design role.