

PERFORMING ARTS

DANCE

DRAMA

MUSIC

In KS3 students experience units of Dance as part of their PE programme. This year a dance course has been followed by year 9 students making that particular choice. At KS4 we offer the BTEC Technical Award in Dance.

This is a course for people with an interest, curiosity, talent or passion for dance. The lessons focus on the development of performance, choreographic and analytical skills. This involves Contemporary, Jazz and Physical theatre styles, but any previous experience in other styles can only help with the various demands of the classes.

Students will regularly perform in and out of school. They will need to maintain a good level of fitness and expect classes to be physically and mentally demanding. Written work is an essential support to understanding. A range of extra curricular activities are made available to supplement and support the class work.

Theatre visits are an integral part of the course as the experience of watching live dance is so different to that of watching it on a screen. It is from these experiences that most students find their inspiration for creative work. We have a relationship with the Performing Arts Centre at Falmouth University which has provided students with workshop opportunities and occasional tickets to watch professional dance companies. We regularly get cheaper tickets for Hall for Cornwall Dance Shows.

We aim to provide additional opportunities outside of normal curriculum time and have a range of projects running at different times of the year. This year this included several group projects for our Spring Dance Show, performances for our Christmas Showcase and Summer Show.



DRAMA

Drama is a group activity and team work skills are developed. We place great emphasis on creating an environment in which all students are respected, valued and able to develop confidence.

Students **make** Drama: exploring and devising through improvisation and scripting.

Students **shape** Drama: rehearsing and revising, polishing and perfecting.

Students **perform** Drama: within class and at times to other classes.

Students **watch** Drama: reflecting and evaluating on their own work and others' work.

Drama is taught throughout Key Stage 3. The Drama course develops skills and approaches that help students to respond positively to work, to develop ideas, to be

able to perform regularly and to be able to reflect on what is achieved recognising both success and areas for development. Students experience an immediate response to their drama work from the teacher and their fellow students. They are encouraged to recognise their own success and to be ambitious as they move on to new work.

There are further drama opportunities offered through the schools calendar of productions. We create our own school shows. This creates times when teachers from different areas, work together e.g. Music, Dance and English. When able we bring in subsidised or free productions and organise theatre visits, although these will involve cost. We have a relationship with Falmouth University which enables students to experience workshops with undergraduates and professional companies.

If the experience of Drama builds confidence and self respect, then it will have been a success; for othersit may transform their lives.

Words and phrases that reveal the actions of a drama student:

Creating, making, shaping, researching, improvising, scripting, imagining, experimenting, generating, partnering, explaining, responding, risk taking, initiating, motivating, rehearsing, practising, revising, learning, remembering, persisting, extending, editing, trying, succeeding, surprising, acting, miming, performing, entertaining, characterising, role playing, expressing, moving, amusing, shocking, stunning, watching, realising, reacting, feeling, wondering, judging, enquiring, questioning, growing, caring, achieving, accepting, understanding, respecting, making your mark, finding your voice, being you at your best.

At Key Stage 4 we deliver Drama through the BTEC Performing Arts Tech Award in Acting. Students are expected to create performances for real audiences. They work at devising, and performing repertoire. They explore the ideas of several key practitioners in theatre. This course will develop confidence, capability and maturity and it is open to all students capable of gaining a pass. It is designed to give insight into the professional world of Drama and Theatre and is an excellent stepping stone to those wanting to go on to further study and who aspire to work in the profession.



MUSIC

The aim of the department is to make music available to all students and to foster a life-long interest in music-making by encouraging active participation at all levels.

All students in Years 7, 8 & 9 receive weekly class lessons as part of the curriculum. Work covers singing, listening and appraising, percussion and keyboard skills, improvising, composing and creative music making. In Year 10 students can opt to follow a GCSE course which will give them the foundation to continue with their music at local colleges.

In addition to one full time music teacher, there is a Performing Arts technician who supports all our technical and production activities including our recording studio. We have a small team of peripatetic music teachers who deliver instrumental and vocal tuition on a weekly basis to over 100 pupils. Tuition is available in singing, woodwind, piano, classical guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, drum-kit, violin and all brass instruments. If you would like further information and costs please contact Miss Morrison.

The music department is housed in a purpose built block with a large classroom, four practise rooms, a large instrument store and a recording studio. The classroom has Apple Mac computers with Sibelius and Garageband (sequencing) music software for student use. All computers are equipped with MIDI keyboards. We have a full set of electronic keyboards that are used for performance and composition as well as a good selection of tuned and un-tuned percussions instruments, ukuleles and guitars.

There are many exciting opportunities for students to take part in ensembles and concerts, in school and within the local community. Some of the music events that have taken place in the last academic year include: The Christmas Show; The Christmas Carol Concert; The Hootenanny; and Songfest.

We are extremely fortunate that we have many ensembles that rehearse weekly in the department and perform at the various concerts held throughout the year. The music department at Mullion welcomes players of all ages and stages, whether they learn within or out of school. One of the most enjoyable aspects of music making is playing music with other musicians. Ensemble experience is essential for the developing musician. Students who receive instrumental tuition at Mullion School are expected to join one of our performing groups.

We currently offer:

<i>Junior Choir (Y7)</i>
<i>Senior Choir (Y8-11)</i>
<i>Chamber Choir (advanced vocalists)</i>
<i>Percussion Ensemble</i>
<i>Ukulele Group</i>
<i>Wind Band</i>
<i>Band Factory</i>

Enquiries about the Music Department can be sent to Miss Morrison at kam@mullionschool.org.uk



The activities of Dance, Drama and Music can become major experiences in a students' journey through Mullion School and we believe the Performing Arts add significant value to the life of all our students.

Ben Merritt
Head of Performing Arts