

DANCE

Curriculum Vision Statement

"Dance is the hidden language of the soul".

Martha Graham

when in doubt
dance



Vision

The Northampton School for Girls' Dance curriculum is inspired by the pioneers of dance throughout history. At Northampton School for Girls (NSG) students will explore creativity through a range of dance styles, developing technique and performance skills, as well as building confidence and promoting teamwork. Students will be presented with a diverse choice of professional works. Dance will not only give students a way of moving but will also allow them to express themselves without words.

Dance at NSG is energetic and ignites a passion for creativity. We motivate students to stretch and challenge their learning by exploring a variety of ways of moving. The NSG Dance curriculum gives learners the opportunity to improve their levels of fitness and encourages them to build a positive mindset. Creating reflective practitioners; Dance enables our students to analyse professional works and examine other cultures through discussion and practical tasks.

Dance at NSG prepares our students with technical and expressive practical skills as well as personal skills which are transferable across our whole school curriculum. Dance can lead onto a career as a professional dancer, dance teacher, choreographer, arts administrator or a fitness instructor.

Our Aims

- To develop and practise skills (technical and expressive performance skills, creativity and analysis).
- To instil British values.
- To incorporate fun and relevance to students' lives.
- To Prepare for BTEC.

Implementation

Demonstrations and role modelling are used to teach students both how to appreciate and analyse professional Dance works and how to critique their own and others' performances and compositions to enable a continuous process of self-development.



Key Stage 3 Topics to be covered from September 2020

YEAR 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring technical dance skills through contemporary dance• Exploring expressive skills through musical theatre• Martial arts• Street dance• Professional works - "Nutcracker"• Professional works - "Swansong"	YEAR 10	Choreography skills Performance skills Basic analysis Component 1: Street dance Professional work - "Into the Hoods" Jazz dance Professional work - "West Side Story" Contemporary dance Professional work - "5 Soldiers"
YEAR 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delving deeper into technical and expressive skills through repertoire• Street dance - "Into the Hoods"• Mixed styles• Working from a stimulus - Banksy• Musical theatre - "The Greatest Showman"• Choreography project - working from a brief	YEAR 11	Component 2: Technical and expressive skills Performance of professional repertoire Component 3: Working from a brief Choreography Performing own choreography Analysis of own choreography

Assessment

Pupils at KS3 are assessed termly on performance (technical and expressive skills), choreography and their learning habits, through a range of practical assessments. The data is then used to track progress throughout the course of the year and to inform the next steps of learning. Throughout KS4, pupils are assessed at the end of every topic to help consolidate learning, inform planning of the next sequence of learning, whilst preparing them for their coursework.

Independent Learning

We actively encourage our students to research and explore professional dance works that can help to inspire their own work. Research and formulation of initial ideas is a crucial skill for our key stage 4 dancers.

BTEC students are set weekly Home Learning activities. Home Learning aims to reinforce and build on the knowledge and understanding that has been learnt in lessons, giving students the time and opportunity to research further, topics and issues in greater depth.

Extra-curricular

Students will perform in a variety of different extra-curricular clubs in order to develop their versatility as a performer. These include street dance, tap and circus skills, as well as our school contemporary dance companies; Signature (by audition only). Students are also given performance opportunities at other local schools to improve their technical and expressive skills.

In the performing arts department at NSG we collaborate to create a biannual musical. Students rehearse in the autumn term and perform in February. Previous productions have included: 'Little Shop of Horrors', 'Hairspray', 'Beauty and the Beast', 'We Will Rock You' and most recently, 'Les Miserables'.