

Susi Earnshaw Theatre School

Performing Arts Curriculum

Curriculum Statement

At the Susi Earnshaw Theatre School we offer a high level of education in the Performing Arts. This is reflected in the division of our school week. Mondays and Fridays being our vocational study days and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday being our Academic study days. In terms of vocational, we aim to deliver specialist training in varying aspects of Dance, Drama and Music across the whole school.

The Vocational curriculum offered is designed to:

- Enable pupils to develop self confidence
- Enable pupils to develop skill and confidence in their talent
- Instill the importance of self-discipline and strong work ethic in achieving success.
- Ensure that pupils are taught a range of Performing Arts subjects to help them fulfill their potential
- Prepare pupils to progress to further vocational training in the Performing Arts
- Prepare pupils to be supported in any further vocational or academic education they may choose to take
- Prepare pupils for the possibility of work in the Performing Arts once they have finished their studies
- Give pupils an understanding and experience of working as a professional within the Performing Arts

Dance

Pupils at SETS study Ballet; Tap; Jazz; Street and Contemporary Dance, in which they are encouraged to explore both the technical aspects but also creative specifically choreography. Pupils are split into year groups for the majority, but are split into boys and girls (age appropriate) in Ballet and Jazz.

Ballet

Ballet is taught from year 7 through to year 11.
The syllabus covers basic to advanced classes in

- Formal ballet training
- Posture, placement
- Turnout

- Free movement
- Character work
- Correct body/foot work
- Combinations
- Terminology
- Style and technique
- Strong emphasis on learning skills

Tap

Tap is taught from year 7 through to year 11

Classes are based on developing students:

- Rhythm appreciation
- Strength
- Style
- vocabulary of steps, combination in exercise and routines
- Tempo's rhythm and tempos

The syllabus covers;

- Basic to advanced tap manipulation and amalgamations
- Correct body/foot articulations
- Terminology
- Combinations
- Strong emphasis on learning skills
- Style and technique
- Advanced concepts and techniques
- Sound rhythms, tone quality and accent accuracy
- Rhythm patterns, steps syncopations
- Freestyle improvisation
- Variations of arms

Jazz

Jazz is taught from year through to year 11

Aims

- To develop the students dance ability with regards to technique and choreography, through a series of exercises based on co-ordination, technique and isolation
- Include routines, in various different styles of Jazz
- Develop students own choreography

- Develop style, performance and presentation
- Develop musicality and dynamic quality.
- To develop the student knowledge of stage, screen and dance musicals
- To study the dance of various influential Jazz choreographers E.g. Bob Fosse and Jerome Robbins

Jazz classes cover basic and advanced classes in;

- Posture and alignment
- Travelling work
- Dance combinations, routines and choreography
- Style and technique
- Co-ordination and isolation.

Contemporary

Contemporary is taught from year 7 in preparation for their GCSE Dance which based around the contemporary technique.

Aims

- To teach how contemporary helps with all form of dance
- Theory comprehension of contemporary and its origins
- Working with a variety of tempos and rhythms
- To give the pupils a deeper understanding of how the body moving focusing on curves, contraction and release.
- To help the pupils develop an original dance vocabulary
- To work towards a variety of different stimulus's and starting points
- To work with a variety of contrasting styles of music.

Objectives

- To improve over all performance of dance
- To learn a variety of tempos and rhythms
- To learn the importance of contemporary for a dancer
- T gain body awareness
- To build self esteem and confidence
- Lengthen, strengthen and tone the muscles
- Improving flexibility
- Posture

GCSE Dance

Pupils at SETS start their GCSE Dance (AQA) training in year nine and sit their final exams in year 10 or 11.

Dance Theory

Dance theory is taught from year 7 onwards and focuses on the origins of various dance styles looking at the Pioneers, and the Anatomy of a Dancer.

Exercise and Fitness

Pupils work towards a level 2 qualification in exercise and fitness that can lead to a career path into sports science or as a personal trainer. A level 3 qualification can be taken in after school classes.

Drama

Like Dance, there are many different aspects of Drama taught at SETS. These include; various acting methods; Characterisation; Improvisation; Audition Technique; Scripted Work; Acting for Film, Acting for theatre; and Voice and Speech. It is mandatory for all pupils to take Bronze, Silver and Gold LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Drama) exams in Speech and Drama.

GCSE Film Studies

In year 10, pupils begin working towards their GCSE Film Studies sitting their final exams in year 11. Pupils in years 7 – 9 are encouraged to make films and take part in film making competitions.

Pupils have access to lighting boards in our theatre and to cameras and editing equipment in our media suite.

Music

In Music, pupils study Singing with reference to Vocal Technique, Repertoire, Solo and Group work, and have one to one personal vocal development classes. They also study music theory up to grade 5.

One to one tuition leading to exams is available in guitar, keyboards, drums, violin, saxophone, trumpet and vocals.

Pupils are given access to sound engineering in our theatre and recording studio and radio station.

Art

Art is taught from year 7 and forms part of the GCSE Expressive Arts GCSE, which is taken in year 9 or 10, depending on when the pupil is ready. Pupils are encouraged to attend art club and some older pupils have the opportunity of working with local artists in their art studio as an after school activity.

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