



Aylesbury High School | #AHSWalksTall

Developing uniquely talented young adults, who are independent, strong and confident

Dear Parent/Carer,

As students embark on their Dance GCSE, we thought it would be useful to share an overview of the course.

In Key Stage 4 Dance:

The examination board for GCSE Dance is AQA. You can find further information relating to the specification [here](#).

- Component 1 Performance and Choreography 60%
- Component 2 Dance Appreciation 40%

We start the course with a project for the Great Big Dance Off national competition, as this is an excellent opportunity for students to build on their key performance skills (physical, technical and expressive) that they have been working on since KS3. This is also a great chance for students to build confidence in their choreography skills, working in small groups to work towards finally creating a large ensemble performance. Throughout the rest of the two years students will learn the GCSE Set Phrases, explore a range of group performance projects based on the Anthology works, explore Solo & Group Choreography tasks and will develop their writing skills, learning to describe, interpret and evaluate their own performance and choreography as well as the six Anthology works set by the exam board.

Required resources:

- Dance kit (AHS PE kit, leggings, leotard, black tights)
- Access to a music streaming platform such as Spotify, Apple Music etc. This is desirable but not essential
- A device they can film content on e.g. phone or Chromebook

Useful websites:

- GCSE Dance Set Phrases linked [here](#)

Homework and assessment:

Homework of 40 minutes duration will be set in Dance to give the students time to consolidate their understanding of work covered at school. Homework may take the form of a written or practical piece and is marked in class where feedback is given in line with the school marking policy and exam board assessment criteria. All NEA (non exam assessment practical work) is assessed in Year 11. Component 1 Set Phrases are filmed in Autumn Term of Year 11, whilst the Performance in a Duet or Trio and Choreography assessment is filmed in Spring Term of Year 11.

Revision:

- There are weekly rehearsal/lunchtime support sessions for students to drop in and rehearse Set Phrases, Duet/Trio & Choreography
- Making additional notes on Component 2 topics such as flash cards etc.
- Rewatching the Anthology works regularly after the topic has been completed
- Complete past paper questions for exam technique

Co-curricular Dance:

Throughout the year the Dance department runs a number of opportunities for students to further enhance their creative performance skills. All these activities will help to develop and build on their skills.

- House Dance
- Great Big Dance Off National Competition
- Trip to MOVE IT Dance convention at the London ExCel Centre
- Theatre trips and workshops with visiting Dance practitioners
- Attendance at other Dance clubs offered at AHS

More information can be found on the [Dance subject content page](#) of the school's website.

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Louise Pennington, Head of Dance, at lpennington@ahs.bucks.sch.uk