



Aylesbury High School | #AHSWalksTall

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

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

In Key Stage 5 Dance:

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

- Component 1 Performance and Choreography 50%
- Component 2 Dance Appreciation 50%

We start the course building students' performance and choreography skills, through a range of tasks in relation to Component 2 of the course. Students learn set repertoire from the compulsory area of study Rambert 1966 - 2002 as well as from the optional area of study American Jazz 1940 - 1975. This works really well as it allows students to consolidate their Dance Appreciation skills, whilst also working towards one of the key practical components which is Practitioner Solo. Year 12 acts as a foundation year in preparation for Year 13, which is when all NEA (non exam assessment practical work) is assessed. For Component 1 students are required to do two performances; Practitioner Solo (20 marks) & Performance in a Quartet (20 marks). Students are also required to complete Group Choreography (40 marks) in which they are not permitted to perform themselves. In the summer of Year 13, students will complete a 2 hour 30 minute written exam on the two areas of study aforementioned.

Required resources:

- Dance kit (t-shirts, leggings, shorts, leotards, tights etc.)
- 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

Homework and assessment:

Homework is set regularly 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 13. The work is assessed by a visiting examiner in a live setting.

Revision:

- There are weekly rehearsal/lunchtime support sessions for students to drop in and rehearse
- Students are encouraged to make additional notes and flashcards after every theory lesson
- Rewatching the professional dance 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
- Leading Dance clubs to lower year students in KS3
- 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