



Matravers School

Dance

Performing Arts at Matravers

The Performing Arts make a highly valued contribution to the curriculum and learning experience of pupils at Matravers, a legacy of the school's former Arts College specialist school status. Dance, alongside Drama and Music enjoys bespoke curriculum time throughout Key Stage 3 and options in KS4 and the Sixth Form are popular with a number of our pupils. At Matravers, it is recognised that the Performing Arts play a unique and valued role in developing creativity and other transferable skills for all pupils, in addition to the specialist skills within each subject. The impact of the Performing Arts extends beyond the curriculum through the offer of high quality co-curricular opportunities including an annual school production (a real highlight of the school calendar), partnerships with national companies, theatre visits and a range of 'in-house' clubs, companies and ensembles.

The Department

The Dance Department currently has two part-time colleagues who share the Head of Department role. Both are specialists and offer a range of co-curricular activities. The school is looking to appoint an enthusiastic and well-qualified Teacher of Dance who will support the department through the next stage of its development.

The Dance Department is well resourced and has access to: a wide range of resources, suitable across the key stages; a large, purpose built dance studio with lighting facilities; access to free-standing lights and sound system; the main school theatre for performances, complete with stage, lighting rig, technical booth and raked seating; and a qualified technician.

Curricular Provision

The current Dance curriculum is varied and dynamic, offering pupils opportunities to develop their skills of performing, creating and viewing dance as an art form. The challenge embedded within the schemes of work is developmental, preparing the students for high order thinking and increasingly demanding learning experiences as their dance studies progress.

At Key Stage 3 pupils follow a varied programme of study including the study of a range of professional dance works in addition to developing their skills as performers and choreographers.

At Key Stage 4 pupils follow the BTEC 'Tech Award' Performing Arts (with a Dance Approach) specification.

At Key Stage 5 pupils follow the AQA A Level Dance specification.

At Matravers, we constantly review the curriculum offer to ensure that it is well-matched to the pupils' abilities, enabling them to successfully develop high quality subject specific and transferable skills as well as exam success.

Co-Curricular Provision

The Dance department is proud to offer a range of co-curricular opportunities including dance companies across the Key Stages, as well as our flagship boys' dance company 'endurance'. The annual Dance in Action performance is a real highlight of the performing arts calendar and includes performances of examination work and curriculum work as well as those created through our co-curricular programme. Our dancers also regularly perform in the local and regional area, which has led to a strong reputation for excellence within Dance at Matravers.

Dance also plays a central role in the overall performing arts offer of the school. Matravers has built a reputable tradition of staging highly successful whole school productions annually, which unite the performing arts and design subjects to create a spectacle of creativity and performance. Most recently, in January 2024, the pupils superbly brought to life '*Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat*', with four sell out performances and a waiting list for tickets. Our annual Performing Arts Celebration Evening is also a wonderful opportunity for pupils across the performing arts to share their talents and celebrate their successes.