**Performance and Arts - Dance**

The Dance Department is a small yet growing and thriving department at Hayesfield, which is run by two teaching staff. The aim of the Dance Department is to deliver a creative, balanced and inspiring curriculum, which enables students to develop their performance, choreographic and appreciation skills. The ethos across the department is to promote self-confidence, to be our very best, to be motivated and to encourage expression and physical wellbeing.

The department also aims to:

* Educate students in the skills of performance, choreography and appreciation.
* To explore a variety of dance styles that will increase student’s awareness of dance in different contexts both socially and culturally.
* To provide students with a diverse movement vocabulary with which they can express different ideas.
* To develop the students ability to work independently, and effectively in groups within a creative and safe environment.
* To provide students with opportunities to perform in school and in the local community, so that they gain an insight into the world of performance and choreography.

In Year 7, 8 and 9 students participate in one-hour lesson per fortnight where all students are taught in mixed ability tutor groups. Students learn about a range of dance styles, professional dance works and develop skills that they will later need at GCSE level.

At GCSE, students can choose to study Dance GCSE (AQA), and over the last four years, this has become an increasingly popular option, with class sizes now over twenty in both Year 10 and 11. Students can also choose to study Dance at A Level (AQA), these are small class sizes, but it is a successful subject and has been running for a number of years. We have a very good alumni in Dance, with students moving on to study at prestigious Dance institutions such as The Place in London, and Ballet West in Scotland.

The extra-curricular programme in Dance is varied with Dance clubs being offered to all of Key Stages; it is a popular option due to the students being able to prepare for different dance performances both in school and in the local community. At Hayesfield, there are two annual Dance showcases, which are always of an excellent standard, due to so many of the students having a passion for Dance. We also prepare two pieces a year, which are performed at the Dance Umbrella; this is a very popular dance festival that takes place at The Forum, in the centre of Bath.

The students are given many opportunities in the Dance Department to work with professional Dance artists, we have had a number of workshops with companies such as New Adventures, Boy Blue and Jasmin Vardimon Dance Company. This really develops the students understanding of the professional dance industry, but also supports the skills they need for their GCSE and A Level assessment pieces. We visit the theatre regularly to watch touring Dance pieces, which is very popular across the school. For example, we visit The Theatre Royal to watch Rambert Dance Company, The Bristol Hippodrome to see Matthew Bourne, and The Royal Opera House to see Ballet pieces such as Romeo and Juliet.

Dance is highly thought of at Hayesfield, and has been become an important part of the curriculum. The aim is to be inclusive of all students, and to encourage them to achieve their best no matter how much experience they have in Dance. We as staff encourage and support them so that they are confident, engage in the curriculum, develop their creativity, have fun and achieve their ambitions!

Hannah Fitzgerald

Subject Leader of Dance