



MATRAVERS SCHOOL

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. Drama, Music and Dance all enjoy bespoke curriculum time throughout Key Stage 3 and Performing Arts 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 and concert visits and a range of 'in-house' clubs, companies and ensembles.

The Performing Arts departments are all well-resourced, with access to purpose-built facilities including dance and drama studios and specialist music classrooms, in addition to music practice rooms and a recording studio. Additionally, the main school theatre is used for performances complete with stage, lighting rig, technical booth and raked seating. Furthermore, each subject team has access to a range of subject-specific resources and a qualified technician who supports curriculum delivery, examination requirements and public performances.

Drama Department

Curricular Provision

The current Drama curriculum is varied and dynamic, offering pupils opportunities to experiment with drama skills across a range of genres. The challenge embedded within the schemes of work is progressive, preparing the pupils for more advanced explorations of Drama techniques, practitioners, play scripts and a range of styles as pupils move through the curriculum.

At Key Stage 3 pupils follow a varied programme of study including a range of play scripts, adaptation, melodrama, silent movies, drama skills, Shakespeare and thematic work.

At Key Stage 4 pupils follow the Pearson BTEC Tech Award Performing Arts specification.

At Key Stage 5 pupils follow the AQA A Level Drama 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 Drama department is proud to offer a range of co-curricular opportunities. 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 the Matravers stage *'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'*, with four sell out performances and a waiting list for tickets. In previous years, the Drama department has also been involved with the National Theatre Connections project, providing pupils with a further opportunity to perform both at school and in a professional venue, at The Egg Theatre in Bath. In addition to these larger-scale projects, the Drama department provide and contribute to a range of other co-curricular opportunities including drama clubs, theatre visits and the annual Performing Arts Celebration Evening.

Music Department

Curricular Provision

The current Music curriculum is varied and dynamic, offering pupils opportunities to develop their skills of performing, creating and listening to music from a wide range of styles and traditions. The challenge embedded within the schemes of work is developmental, preparing the pupils for high order thinking and increasingly demanding learning experiences as their music studies progress.

At Key Stage 3 pupils follow a varied programme of study including the development of performance and compositional skills, informed by access to a range of instruments and the study of professional music repertoire.

At Key Stage 4 pupils follow the Pearson BTEC Tech Award Music specification.

At Key Stage 5 pupils follow the Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate in Music 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 Music department is proud to offer a range of co-curricular opportunities, including choirs and instrumental groups, in addition to student-led bands and ensembles. The annual Young Musician of the Year and Christmas Concert are both real highlights of the performing arts calendar. The school choirs are also particularly active in the local community, regularly performing at a range of events during the school year, which has contributed to a strong reputation for Music at Matravers.

Dance Department

Curricular Provision

The current Dance curriculum is varied and dynamic, offering students 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 students 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 Pearson 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 students' 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 extra-curricular opportunities including dance companies for Key Stage 3 ('KICKstart'), Key Stage 4 and 5 ('makeSHIFT') and boys ('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 extra-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.