

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts Curriculum at Dean Trust Ardwick allows pupils to experience a broad and balanced curriculum in Music and Drama. Links with knowledge from other faculties are made at regular intervals in order to strengthen learning. Our state-of-the-art facilities are the perfect place to allow pupils to explore their creativity, whilst benefiting from the transferable skills that the Performing Arts provide, such as confidence, resilience and effective communication skills.

At KS3, Performing Arts is taught once a week throughout the school year with pupils being encouraged to achieve academic and vocational excellence. At KS4 we offer vocational qualifications in both Performing Arts and Music and pupils will undertake 3 lessons per week in these subjects.

Year 7

In Year 7, the curriculum is designed to introduce pupils to the core skills in a range of performance styles and disciplines. Pupils will be encouraged and supported in their learning to develop their confidence and stage presence. The comprehensive curriculum programme includes topics such as:

Storytelling -

Melodrama. Learning how to create exaggerated stories and characters that are different to yourself, through the use of vocal and physical skills. Gaining knowledge of drama techniques to enhance creative work.

Elements of Music, Rhythm & Notation

Pupils will study the elements of music and apply their knowledge through a range of practical activities, with a focus on the African style. Basic keyboard skills will be introduced, alongside use of drums and vocal work.

Response to a Stimulus

Non-naturalistic drama Pupils will explore alternative methods of performance, other than role play to perform extracts based on the Harry Potter stories. They will develop a deep understanding of various drama techniques through teacher led activities and independent tasks.

Listening and Composition Skills

Pupils will revisit and use the skills they gained in HT2 to create their own piece of music. This will be done primarily on the keyboard and using the voice as an instrument. This unit encourages creativity and imagination in our pupils.

Devising Drama based on stimulus.

Pupils will develop their creative skills by devising drama based on a range of stimuli from WW1 & WW2, such as poetry, images and stories of evacuees. They will make links with their learning in Humanities and English, during this scheme of work. They will also explore the plot, characters and themes in Michelle Magorian's 'Goodnight Mr Tom'.

Elements of Music, Rhythm & Notation

Pupils will revisit and use their prior understanding of the elements of music and will extend their knowledge further. They will learn how to read notated scores and use this knowledge to play set pieces of music on the keyboards. Pupils will also have the opportunity to develop and improve their performance skills.

Year 8

The curriculum in Year 8 is designed so that pupils will revisit core skills and deepen their understanding and knowledge of both characterisation skills and non-naturalistic drama techniques. They will explore different genres of music and drama and understand the stylistic features of each. The year 8 curriculum includes the following units:

Skills Development

ASBO. Pupils will explore issue-based drama, exploring the theme of anti-social behaviour. They will develop their characterisation skills further by creating specific roles, considering their use of voice, body language and facial expressions. As a culmination to the unit, they will use their knowledge of drama techniques to create their own episode of 'Crimewatch UK'.

Elements of Music, Rhythm & Notation

Pupils will explore the stylistic features of Reggae and use their knowledge to play a well-known piece of music. They will also revisit and solidify knowledge of the elements of music in studying the style of Reggae.

Non – Naturalism and Physical Theatre

Using 'Romeo & Juliet as a stimulus. Pupils will work as a whole class in bringing sections of the play to life, in a non-naturalistic performance style. They will strengthen knowledge gained in English in Year seven to explore the story and the use of physical theatre in performance. They will also experience being directed, using feedback to improve their work and the process of devising, using a range of new drama techniques and skills.

Listening and Composition Skills

Pupils will revisit and use the skills they gained in HT2 to create their own piece of music. Using *Garageband*, they will be introduced to elements of basic music technology and develop their knowledge of timing and rhythm.

The Music Industry

Pupils will gain insight into the professional music industry. They will gain knowledge of venues, organisations, job roles and gain experience of planning a music product/event.

Year 9

The curriculum in Year 9 is designed so that pupils will revisit core skills and deepen their understanding and knowledge. During year 9, pupils are given the opportunity to expand their knowledge, skills and understanding, in preparation for progression on to KS4. Year 9 topics include:

Skills Development

Theatre in Education. Pupils will explore the Genre of Theatre in Education and gain understanding of the stylistic features within it. They will develop their characterisation skills further by creating more demanding, exaggerated roles, considering their use of more prominent body language and facial expressions. Pupils will study playwright Mark Wheeler and explore his style of performance through performing extracts of his plays.

Elements of Music, Rhythm & Notation

Pupils will explore the stylistic features of Rap along with being introduced to key figures in the early development of the style. They will also revisit and solidify knowledge of rhythm and timing, in experiencing the process of creating their own piece of rap music.

Response to a Stimulus

The Audition Process. Pupils will develop understanding of a professional performer's experience in auditioning. They will be given a scenario based brief and over the course of the unit they will be selected, research, rehearse and perform an extract of performance. They will also track their progress and review their skills at regular intervals.

Listening and Composition Skills

Pupils will revisit and use the skills they gained in HT2 to create their own piece of music. Using *Garageband*, they will expand their knowledge of elements and music technology, to create a piece of music, for a specific purpose.

Script work

Using ***Blood Brothers and An Inspector Calls***, pupils will experience what is involved in the process of using a script to prepare a performance. They will make links with prior knowledge in English, to strengthen learning. They will research, rehearse and perform a piece of repertoire throughout the course of the unit. This unit will give the pupils complete ownership of the creation of the performance extract and will also require them to use their reflective and evaluation skills.

Extra-Curricular

Our state-of-the-art facilities are a perfect place for pupils to experience and enjoy extra-curricular activities. Pupils have the opportunity to attend in order to further develop their skills and perform in our various showcases and performances throughout the year.

This year's extra- Curricular activities include:

- DTA Vocal Group
- Recorder Club
- DTA Dance Company
- Keyboard Club
- Drama Club
- 'Freestyle' Dance Session
- 'Westenders' – Musical Theatre club
- Shakespeare Production
- Winter showcase
- Summer Production