

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts Curriculum at Dean Trust Ardwick allows pupils to experience a broad and balanced curriculum of Music, Drama and Dance. Our state-of-the-art facilities are the perfect place to allow pupils to explore their creativity whilst benefiting from the transferable skills that Performing Arts provide.

At KS3, Performing Arts is taught once a week throughout the school year with pupils being encouraged to achieve academic and vocational excellence.

Year 7

In Year 7 the curriculum is designed to introduce pupils to the core skills in a ranges 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:

Skills Development

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. Basic keyboard skills will be introduced, alongside use of drums and vocal work.

Response to a Stimulus

Harry Potter. Pupils will explore alternative methods of performance, other than role play to perform extracts based on these famous 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.

Script work

Using ***Ernie's Incredible Illusions*** as a stimulus for whole class performance, pupils will have the opportunity to experience what is involved in the process of using a script to prepare a performance. There will also be many opportunities for pupils to create their own performance work, as part of this unit.

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. 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.

Response to a Stimulus

Revolting Rhymes. Pupils will work as a whole class in bringing Roald Dahl's tales to life, in a performance. They will 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.

Script work

Using *Our Day Out*, as a stimulus for a whole class performance, pupils will experience what is involved in the process of using a script to prepare a performance. There will also be many opportunities for pupils to create their own performance work, as part of this unit. This unit will give the pupils more ownership of the creation of performance, in comparison to the script work undertaken in year 7, allowing them to develop both their group work and devising skills.

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

Issue Based Drama. Pupils will explore issue based drama, exploring the theme of anti-social behaviour. They will develop their characterisation skills further by creating more demanding, exaggerated roles, considering their use of more prominent body language and facial expressions. As a culmination to the unit, they will use their extended knowledge of drama techniques to a piece of Theatre in Education.

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

Revoltng Rhymes. Pupils will work as a whole class in bringing Roald Dahl's tales to life, in a performance. They will experience being directed, using feedback to improve their work and the process of devising, using a range of new drama techniques and skills. **Devising skills will be** targeted during this unit, in order to further equip pupils for their progression on to KS4.

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***, pupils will experience what is involved in the process of using a script to prepare a performance. 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.

Extra- Curricular activities include:

- DTA Vocal Group
- Recorder Club
- DTA Dance Company
- Keyboard Club
- 'Freestyle' Dance Session
- 'Westenders' – Musical Theatre club
- Shakespeare Production – 'Much Ado About Nothing'