

EXPRESSIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS FACULTY

Overview

The Expressive and Performing Arts Faculty consists of 12 teachers in the subject areas of Drama, Music and PE. The faculty's key priorities are continuing to improve student achievement through the delivery of challenging and engaging lessons and building upon the large range of extra-curricular opportunities available to our students. The team is committed to the use of assessment and data to improve practice and raise standards.

Subjects within the faculty are popular within the school and currently there are high numbers of students taking our subjects at GCSE and A level with successful outcomes. We run a range of extra-curricular clubs and host several extended learning days and activities during term time. We have strong links with Oxford University Department of Education and a number of our teachers act as mentors to PGCE and newly qualified teachers.

We are looking for an enthusiastic, committed professional with the passion and drive to work with us to move the faculty forward in terms of curriculum provision, quality of teaching and learning and the effective use of data to improve outcomes.

Physical Education

All students study PE/games in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. They experience a high-quality curriculum enabling all pupils to enjoy and succeed in many kinds of physical activities. They develop a wide range of skills and the ability to use tactics, strategies and compositional ideas to perform successfully. When they are performing, they think about what they are doing, analyse the situation and make decisions. They also reflect on their own and others' performances and find ways to improve them. As a result, they develop the confidence to take part in different physical activities and learn about the value of healthy, active lifestyles.

At KS4, students can choose GCSE Physical Education as an option subject. The Full GCSE Physical Education Course by Edexcel is split between theoretical and practical components. Unit 1 counts for 60% of the final grade and is the theory aspect of the course. It is assessed by two exams in May of the final year. Unit 2 is called 'Performance in Physical Education' and requires Three Practical Performances from the student which takes up 40% of the course.

At Key Stage 5 we offer an A-Level in Physical Education. We follow the Edexcel Specification which comprises of Written examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes 40% of the qualification 140 marks Content overview • Topic 1: Applied anatomy and physiology • Topic 2: Exercise physiology and applied movement analysis. Written examination: 2 hours 30% of the qualification 100 marks Content overview • Topic 3: Skill acquisition • Topic 4: Sport psychology • Topic 5: Sport and society. Non-examined assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated 15% of the qualification 40 marks Content overview • Skills performed in one physical activity as a player/performer OR • Skills performed in one physical activity as a coach. Non-examined assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated 15% of the qualification 40 marks Content overview Carrying out and producing the Performance Analysis and PDP may take place over multiple session.

Drama

This is taught throughout key Stage 3. Students are assessed in three areas. The first is devising and rehearsing which tests the skills of group working, co-operation and leadership. The second assessment is performing and this tests skills such as "staying in character", voice projection and use of space on the stage. The third area is that of evaluation, testing the students' ability to analyse and comment on performances which they see. Students are also be asked to reflect on their own performance work.

Drama is offered at GCSE following the WJEC specification where students will develop knowledge and understanding of Drama through practical workshops. Component 1: Devising Theatre, Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated, 40% of qualification. Component 2: Performing from a Text Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner, 20% of qualification. Component 3: Interpreting Theatre Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes, 40% of qualification.

At Key Stage 5 GCE AQA Drama and Theatre studies is offered. The AQA A level in Drama and Theatre is an exciting and inspiring course, which prepares learners for further study in Higher Education. This highly practical specification provides learners with the opportunity to work as either performers and/or designers on three different performances. In Component 1 learners reinterpret a text to create a piece of theatre which is a combination of the selected text and original ideas. In Component 2 learners engage with a stimulus to create two pieces of theatre; one an interpretation of a text of their own choice and the other a devised piece. In Component 3, learners explore two complete performance texts and one extract from a third text. There is an exciting and diverse list of texts to choose from; centres must select one, which was written before 1956, and one, which was written after 1956.

There are two specialist Drama Studios. Both are equipped with stage lighting, sound and curtains. In the larger of the two, stage blocks can be used in the performance area. There is a costume store and a props/scenery cupboard. For larger performances the Proscenium Arch Stage in Waynflete Hall can be used. This has sound, lighting and curtains and access to a "green room"

Music

The music department at Magdalen College School Brackley moved into 2 new custom music classrooms in September 2022. Both classrooms are equipped with 15 apple mac minis and MIDI keyboards along with large touchscreen interactive boards. To accompany this there are four new practice rooms all equipped with electric pianos, drum kits and numerous guitars and amplifiers.

There is a strong extra-curricular program open to all students which currently consists of choir, orchestra, rock bands and a drumming club and the department regularly listen to student feedback to offer clubs which they are keen to pursue and are open to offering other clubs that staff members may wish to run. Throughout the year there are numerous performance opportunities including a carol service, winter concert, whole school musical production and a summer showcase as well as events supporting our local community. The school is partnered with Northamptonshire Music and Performance Arts Trust (NMPAT) with many students regularly attending Saturday school and participating in county music ensembles. We have 8 peripatetic tutors visiting every week teaching a wide variety of instruments.

The KS3 music curriculum comprises six main musical projects giving all students the chance to learn to read, write and play music with topics covering the Elements of Music, Keyboard Skills, African Drumming, Ukulele, Samba, and Video Game Music. During each topic students develop their musical skills by listening, performing, and composing. Students are assessed at the end of each term and given their attainment level. Most units include the chance for students to sing and work in small groups. Students use the music ICT regularly in lessons and gain skills using Garageband and MuseScore or Sibelius.

At KS4 we follow the Eduqas/WJEC specification which comprises three main elements: performing, composing and appraising music from several areas of study. This will enable students to develop their theory of music alongside historical study to support their performance in a practical and purposeful way. Students complete two compositions (one free choice and one in a set style by the exam board) and two performances (one solo and one ensemble) which are internally marked and then moderated for their coursework. For the listening exam there are four main areas of study; Musical Forms & Devices / Music for Ensembles / Film Music / Popular Music as well as two set works students have to study (Badinerie by J.S. Bach and Africa by Toto).

Students wishing to further their music studies at KS5 continue with the Eduqas/WJEC specification at A-Level and have a choice of either majoring in Performance or Composition with their specialism being worth 35% of their overall grade and the other unit 25%. Both units are externally assessed with performances involving a visiting examiner for a recital and compositions are sent to the exam board. The remaining 40% is the Listening and Appraising exam which is made up to three areas of study. The

compulsory unit is the Western Classical Tradition: The Development of the Symphony from 1750-1900 (including a set work - Haydn Symphony 104). This unit also includes wider listening and an essay question on the exam. For the second area of study students can choose from Rock and Pop (1960-200), Musical Theatre or Jazz (1920-1950) and for the third there is a choose between the Twentieth Century (1895-1935) or Twenty-First Century (1980-present). These units can also be dependent on teacher specialisms.