



BTEC Performing Arts: Dance

Understanding the BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts (Dance)

Why Study BTEC Dance?

Studying dance allows you to develop strong practical skills across a range of styles, including contemporary, jazz, and street. Dance boosts confidence, stage presence, and self-expression. It also builds vital employability skills such as teamwork, discipline, creativity, and communication, all of which are essential both within and beyond the performing arts industry.

Dance requires high levels of discipline, resilience, and determination, as students must consistently challenge themselves physically and mentally. With a vocational, hands-on approach to dance technique, choreography, and appreciation, studying dance prepares you effectively for progression into higher education or a professional career in the performing arts.



What Is the BTEC Tech Award?

A vocational performing arts qualification for key stage 4 learners that combines practical and theoretical dance study.

Split into Three Core Components

Over Years 10 and 11, you'll complete three components that develop performance, choreography, and analytical skills:

Component 1: Exploring Performing Arts

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques

Component 3: Responding to a Brief

Let's Find out more!



Photo: Paul Henderson © Flair's Dance Academy, Inc.



Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts



In this component you will develop your understanding of the performing arts by examining the work of performing arts professionals and the processes used to create performance.

You will observe and research three professional performance pieces in different performance styles before focusing on one for this component.

In this part of the course, you will learn how the piece is created. You will explore different roles and responsibilities, as well as the skills, techniques and processes used. You will study the piece by taking part in practical activities and through research, helping you understand how themes are explored and how ideas are communicated to an audience.

This component is internally assessed and externally moderated; forms 30% of your overall BTEC grade.



Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

In this component you will develop your performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of professional dance repertoire as performers or designers.

You will take part in workshops and classes where you will develop technical, practical and interpretative skills through the rehearsal and performance process. You will work from existing performing arts repertoire, applying relevant skills and techniques to reproduce the performance work. Throughout your development, you will review your own progress and consider how to make improvements.



Real-World Focus

Work like a professional dance company—rehearse, perform, reflect, and present your work.



Rehearsal Skills

Workshops build technique, stamina, precision, consistency, and ensemble skills.

Performance Task

One professional routine. Assessed on accuracy, expression, and commitment.

Component 3: Responding to a Brief

In this component you will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to contribute to a workshop performance as either a performer or a designer in response to a brief and stimulus.

You will be given a brief that outlines the performance/ design requirements and asks you to consider your target audience and to start the creative process by using the stimulus included in the brief. Working as part of a group, you will develop your ideas for a workshop performance and apply your skills and techniques to communicate your creative intentions to your audience.

This component is externally assessed and forms 40% of your overall BTEC grade.

1



Plan

Plan a 7-15 minute dance piece in a group, inspired by the theme or stimulus, and make creative decisions on music, costumes,

2



Choreograph and Rehearse

Lead rehearsals to create the choreography for your workshop performance and spend time refining the movements.

3



Perform

Present your final piece to an audience; it will be recorded and externally assessed.



Where Can This Course Take You?



Performing Arts

Further your dance training at performing arts colleges and universities before moving into the performing industry.



Performing

Perform in live events, theatre, concerts, and festivals.



Choreography

Choreograph for stage, film, or other events.



Teaching

Become a dance teacher in schools, studios, colleges, universities or communities.

Former St Martins School Students Success.

Our school celebrates significant performing arts achievements, with some students gaining places at dance colleges and universities, and others graduating from dance college and performing in the industry on cruise ships, at holiday parks, in music videos, and as backing dancers.