



SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS



THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Performing Arts department uniquely offers students at Shirley High School the chance to develop their confidence, creative ability and their skills, both as individual subjects and as a part of jointly presented activities, inside and outside of school. Performances from each subject are offered to enrich what is taught in timetabled lessons.

We currently offer three GCSE Options in Dance, Drama and Music, achieving outstanding results across the subjects. Each subject offers enrichment activities such as clubs and theatre trips. Shirley High School also offers the chance for students in each subject to continue their studies into A Level or BTEC, offering all three subjects in the Sixth Form.

DANCE

Dance is taught throughout Years 7, 8 & 9 as a separate subject, delivered weekly. All students are taught in mixed sex and ability groups. Dance is then offered as an option subject for GCSE which spans two years from 10-11. Lessons take place in a purpose built dance studio, which is equipped with a fully sprung floor, mirrors and media resources. This enables students to study the art of dance in a safe and professional environment.

Throughout the school year students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities, performances, school concerts and a yearly dance showcase, which is open to dancers in every year from 7-13.

A notable highlight for the Shirley High School Dance Company was their performance at The British Formula 1 Grand Prix at Silverstone to 80,000 people in 2018. We are committed to providing outstanding experiences within the arts, to showcase our students' talents.

DRAMA

Students are taught Drama and Theatre Skills in Years 7, 8 and 9 working across a range of styles. There is a Key Stage 3 Drama Club held every week, as well as a gifted and talented club that runs vertically through the year groups. Both clubs present productions to parents/carers and students.

Drama, from Year 10, is an option subject at GCSE leading to A Level, where students devise their own work, perform scripted pieces, develop their theoretical understanding of drama and develop their knowledge of theatre practitioners and their techniques. GCSE and A Level students are also used as role models for younger students, in school productions and events. Additional lessons are available for students who wish to study the LAMDA syllabus and gain additional qualifications in Drama. These are highly successful and run in the same way as the instrumental lessons outlined below.



MUSIC

Within the Performing Arts building the Music Centre is made up of two classrooms, a recording studio and five practice rooms. Music is taught throughout the school in Years 7, 8 & 9 for one lesson each week. The syllabus is based on the areas of listening and appraising, performing and composing. Much of the work is practical, using keyboards, computers and a variety of percussion instruments. During Years 10 and 11, students are offered music as an option for GCSE. The syllabus ensures that all students have equal access even though they may not study a musical instrument. This supports and leads into BTEC Music, now being offered at the Shirley High School Sixth Form. From year 10 students also have access to our new Music Computer Suite which houses the latest music technology software. As well as clubs, instrumental lessons both shared & solo are offered within the school and include:

Clarinet, Drums, Guitar, Piano/Keyboard, Saxophone, Singing and Violin.

We also offer LAMDA Speech & Drama lessons.



PERFORMING ARTS

All students are invited to audition for the school production or to be part of the technical crew. The school show involves all subjects in the Performing Arts and is a showcase of dance, drama and music. Previous productions include, 'Little Shop of Horrors', 'Guys & Dolls' and 'A Christmas Carol', 'School of Rock', 'Macbeth'. This year we will run 'Memphis the Musical'. Other opportunities include national and international tours, including a trip to New York every 3 years.

We also offer lunchtime and after school clubs such as Dance club, Musical Theatre club, beats club and our renowned Gospel Choir. Performing Arts is a highly successful department, with outstanding staff and results; the building is always a hive of creativity and a wonderful place to learn.

