



SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Our Vision:

To develop aspirational learners who strive for excellence academically, creatively and culturally, benefitting from a wide range of opportunities led by inspirational educators.



THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Performing Arts department uniquely offers pupils 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. Each subject offers enrichment activities such as clubs and theatre trips. Shirley High School also offers the chance for pupils 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 pupils 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 pupils to study the art of dance in a safe and professional environment.

Throughout the school year, pupils 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.

Our Elite Dance group won 2024's KS4 division of the Croydon School's 'Let Your Feet Compete' dance competition. We are committed to providing outstanding experiences within the arts, to showcase our pupil's talents.

Additional lessons are available for pupils to attend with our fantastic Dance teacher Reece James, where he challenges our dancers to create new and exciting styles out of their comfort zone.

DRAMA

Pupils 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 pupils.

Drama, from Year 10, is an option subject at GCSE leading to A- Level, where pupils 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 pupils are also used as role models for younger pupils, in school productions and events.

Additional lessons are available for pupils 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, fully equipped with iMacs where the pupils play GarageBand music software, 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, pupils are offered music as an option for GCSE. The syllabus ensures that all pupils 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 pupils 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:

Drums, Guitar, Piano/Keyboard, and Singing.

We also offer LAMDA Speech & Drama and Dance lessons.



PERFORMING ARTS

Performing Arts is also taught in our curriculum to give an opportunity for pupils to understand the array of avenues that the industry has. Including Musical theatre, Radio Presenting and Acting for Screen.

All pupils are invited to audition for the school production which we host twice a year. These are an amalgamation of all 3 disciplines as well as offering pupils to be involved in the back stage, and technical team. Our upcoming production will showcase the well-known musical 'Guys and Dolls'.

We also offer lunchtime and after-school clubs such as Dance Club, Musical Theatre club, Beats club, School Band and our renowned Gospel Choir. Performing Arts is a highly successful department, the building is always a hive of creativity and a wonderful place to learn.