

Dance FAQs

1. Why study Dance?

Dance at KS4 will help you to develop technical, creative and expressive skills, as well as knowledge and understanding of Dance through performance, choreography and critical appreciation. As a KS4 Dance pupil, you will demonstrate your abilities in technique, fitness, creativity, effective planning and performance reviews, as well as compositional approaches.

If you opt for Dance at KS4, you would study and specialise in Dance, rather than core P.E. Due to this, you would be gaining an extra qualification, as Dance would not take up one of your four options, instead it would replace P.E. You would therefore study Dance for two hours per week.

Transferable skills include:

Communication skills	Organisational skills	Creativity
Collaborative skills	Self-discipline	Leadership skills
Confidence	Time management	Team work
Research skills	Self-awareness	The ability to deal with critique

2. What exactly does the course involve?

TSS offers the RSL level 1/ level 2 Certificate in Creative and Performing Arts Dance, which is the equivalent to one GCSE. The course involves two units of work, one which is internal and graded by Mrs Robinson-Marsh, 'Ensemble Performance' and an external unit, which is sent to an examiner to be assessed, 'Live Performance'. The 'Ensemble Performance' unit will introduce you to Dance genre, such as Contemporary, Hip-Hop, Indian and Commercial. You will develop your ability in performing technical movements with a group. You will learn a range of different movement sequences, as well as gain an understanding of the background and history of the genre.

The external unit, 'Live Performance', will give you the opportunity to experience the process of preparing for a live performance. It will give you the opportunity to explore all the skills required - these range from planning, rehearsing and the performance itself, to the reflection required post-performance to ensure continual development as performers. You will be issued with a set theme and then, working with your group, you plan, create, rehearse and perform your own group dance performance, using any style or combination of accompaniment or music.

3. What work is involved for Dance at KS4?

This is a two-year, practical course and you are assessed throughout Years 10 and 11. Your assignment tasks will include research, reflective logs, your approach to rehearsals and choreography, how you can present a Dance performance and your ability to evaluate performance outcomes. You will develop ideas and learn routines for both small and large group dances,

covering a range of styles. You will **not** be expected to perform a solo, unless of course you feel confident enough to do so.

4. What if I need further support with my work?

You can use the studio booking form to develop and rehearse your practical skills outside of lesson time. You can also arrange to have extra tuition with your tutor, Mrs Robinson-Marsh, to support either your practical or written skills.

5. Is this the course for me?

Yes! You do not have to have any previous experience in Dance to gain a place on the course, although any experience will of course help. As long as you have a keen interest to develop technical, creative and performance skills in movement, then this course would be a brilliant option, in order to support you ambitions and intentions.

6. Where next?

This course provides a strong foundation from which pupils can take other courses in Dance and Performing Arts. These include A-level/ Level 3 Dance, higher education Dance, and professional training. In addition, the skills acquired such as teamwork, problem-solving, management and motivation of others are transferable to almost any career and further studies.

Future career pathways include:

Dancing professionally Teaching Choreographer	Dance therapy Charity work Physiotherapy	Fitness instructor Youth work Theatre critic
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7. What opportunities are there to support my learning in Dance?

You will work in a specialised Dance studio that includes a sprung floor, mirrors and barre.

Work with other professional dancers, practitioners and companies, including Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

Theatre trips to view professional dance works and/ or in-school screenings.

Opportunity to automatically gain a place in TSS Dance Company, that runs after school to develop technique and performance skills. You can then attend and become involved in rehearsals and performances for live events. Past performance events include school concerts, Schools Prom at St George's Hall and Shipley Street Arts Festival.

8. What kit can I wear for Dance?

At TSS Dance, we wear either the usual PE uniform or all black, either leggings, shorts or jogging bottoms, with a plain black t-shirt. TSS Dance t-shirts are available to order for those wishing to take Dance at KS4. Warm layers are

recommended for the colder weather and TSS Dance hoodies will also be available to order from September.

9. Will I need any specialist equipment to study Dance at KS4?

You will need to bring clean, indoor trainers for Urban and Commercial Dance styles, but there is no requirement to purchase any other types of footwear. When studying Lyrical, Contemporary and Jazz/ Musical Theatre styles, we do work in bare feet, therefore if you would rather work in footwear appropriate for these styles, then soft-sole, canvas ballet shoes can be worn.

10. What if I have further questions about taking Dance?

No problem! Please get in touch with Mrs Robinson-Marsh, Leader of Dance at TSS, by emailing your queries to rma@fitussaltschool.co.uk