

3rd March 2026
ECo/SSn

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 11 Performing Arts Exam Information

Dance and Drama Information

Students that take Dance and/or Drama are currently working on their Component 3 exam. This involves working in groups to create a performance based on a brief set by the exam board. The brief this year is “Common Ground” and students have to create a 7-15 minute performance for the opening of a new community centre.

There are three pieces of written work that will be carried out in controlled assessment conditions; two before the performance exam, and one afterwards. These are an Ideas Log, where students explain their ideas for the performance piece, and a Skills Log, where they explain the Performing Arts skills that they will use, plus an evaluation of their final piece. Staff will use lesson time to prepare students for these tasks. Students are allowed to prepare notes to take in with them, which is something they could be working on at home.

For Drama the recording of their final exam piece will take place on Tuesday 28th April. For Dance the recording of their final exam piece will take place on Wednesday 29th April. Students will be off timetable all day for this exam and will be performing to an invited audience of Year 10 Drama and Dance students. Period 2 will be used for setting up and final rehearsals with periods 3 and 4 spent recording the performances. During period 5 they will start planning their written evaluation.

The evaluation will be completed by Tuesday 5th May, when all the work will be sent off to the examiner. There is no opportunity to extend this deadline. To help students prepare for their exam they could be doing the following at home:

- Carrying out further research
- Preparing their notes
- Making notes of what they have done in their lessons
- Rehearsing their part for the performance
- Collecting props and costume items that they might need

Music Exam Information

Students that take Music are currently working on their Component 3 exam. This involves students working individually to change a piece of music from a given list into a style they have chosen from the options given by the exam board. The brief is to create a piece of music for an online Music magazine, with all the pieces being linked to the theme of ‘Sound’. Students can choose to be a performer, giving a live performance, or a producer



for this exam, using Soundtrap to create their piece. Alongside the piece of music, students must write about their ideas in Activity 1 (initial response to the brief) and then they will write an evaluation (Activity 3) once the piece is completed. Both of these will be carried out during lesson time as Controlled Assessments.

Currently, students are in the preparation stage of the exam, collecting the resources they need and making plans for how they intend to change the piece. They have started creating their piece and will be doing the written controlled assessment proposal over the next week or so. The final recording of the finished piece will take place on Thursday 30th April. Students will be off timetable for the day, working in the music room to record their final piece (performers) and to complete their music track (producers). They will also start their evaluation. All exam work will be completed by Tuesday 5th May. There is no opportunity to extend this deadline.

To help students prepare for their exam they could be doing the following at home:

- Rehearsing the chosen piece to get an understanding of the different musical elements
- Listening to examples of pieces in the style that they have chosen for inspiration
- Making notes of what they have done in class, ready for their evaluation
- Performers should be rehearsing their part within the piece and should be organising rehearsals with the other musicians in their group (where applicable)

We will be offering rehearsal sessions in school for all three courses during the Easter holidays, and further details will be shared soon. Please support your child by ensuring they attend school to receive as much support from staff as possible and by noting the exam dates to avoid scheduling appointments on those days.

Yours sincerely,



Miss E Cox
Head of Performing Arts

