

Dance



**GEORGE
SALTER
ACADEMY**

Overview

The Dance Department at George Salter Academy is a vibrant and dynamic group of teachers who provide a range of opportunities for the students, both in the classroom and within the local community. The department organise lots of events where students experience performing in front of selection of audiences where this can build confidence, self-esteem and essential dance skills. Dance is taught at all key stages and all students get the chance to study Dance from year 7 onwards. There are exciting times ahead for the Dance department with the new facilities being built which will comprise of a fully equipped dance studio, an activity studio and a state of the art theatre.

Study Support

The Dance department offers a great range of after school clubs for all students to attend every night of the week. We run a Junior and Senior Dance company called "Chicane" for students that show a real aptitude for the subject.

We organise many holiday programmes for our students to come along to, many of them being with professional dance artists. This gives the students a great insight into how professionals within the industry work.

- Download the [Study Support timetable \[pdf, 141 KB\]](#)

Special Projects

Our students have been part of some amazing projects, such as:

- Performing at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre with the Zoo Nation Dance Company – February 2016
- Taking part in a workshop with Frantic Assembly Physical Theatre – September 2015
- Chosen to perform in the Giant Dance project in 2014 and 2015 as part of the Sandwell Arts Festival.
- A boys dance project with Flexus Dance Company – February 2015
- Performing at West Bromwich Library for their World Book Night celebrations – April 2013
- Chosen to represent Sandwell at the Black Country Dance Hub Launch at Wolverhampton Art Gallery - May 2013
- performing at the National Indoor Gymnastics Championships at the NIA in Birmingham
- Being part of the torch relay performances at the MAC (Midland Art Centre) and Victoria Square in preparation of London 2012 Olympic Games
- Producing a Boys Dance Film, called FORT for the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad

What the students say about the department

"In Dance it allows me to express how I feel through using different kinds of music." Richie, year 10 student

"The dance teachers really inspire us to do well and try our best." Sasika, year 10 student

"Dance allows us to showcase all the work we have done to a variety of audiences, both in school and in the community." Sukhbir, year 12 student

"The best thing about Dance is understanding different cultures through performances and trips." Sophie, year 8 student

Future Events

Download a list of [future events 2016-2017 \[pdf, 214 KB\]](#)

Contact

Miss L. Wakeley (Head of Department) l.wakeley@georgesalter.com

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8)

The Dance department provide an exciting and practical curriculum that develops creativity, performance and appreciation skills.

Year 7

Autumn Term 1

- Jabberwocky - Students use a Poem based around the story of Alice in Wonderland to create movement material.

Autumn Term 2

- Jabberwocky (poem) - Students create a whole class dance experimenting with contact work, using the Jabberwocky poem as their starting point which is performed in front of friends and family in a Christmas showcase.

Spring Term 1

- Dance around the world - A look into dance history and African Dance starts off this unit. Students will research the oldest dance style and present to their ideas.

Spring Term 2

- Dance around the world - Continuing with the history of dance students experiment with popping, locking and breaking as we dive into Street dance and hip hop.

Summer Term 1

- Swansong - Students look into the theme of interrogation and bullying through a dance piece choreographed by a professional choreographer.

Summer Term 2

- Swansong Showcase - Students create a class dance looking into the theme of bullying through movement, using the professional work Swansong as their starting point. This is performed in front of friends and family in a Summer showcase.

Year 8

Autumn Term 1

- Dance Tek Warriors - Using the theme of the game Tekken, students create their own warrior and battle movement exploring different levels of the PlayStation game.

Autumn Term 2

- Parkour -Using the concept of free running students explore how to move over, under and around object in a fast and free manner.

Spring Term 1

- Arts in the media - Students take on the roles of designer, director and promoter of their very own dance trainer. Using the MAC suite facilities students create their own advert showcasing their product.

Spring Term 2

- Guernica - Students delve into history and look at the painting of Guernica by Picasso (1937) Researching the horrific bombing in Spain and how it affected the lives and futures of Spanish civilians.

Summer Term 1

- Ghost Dances - Looking into the work of professional choreographer Christopher Bruce, students research into the political oppression in Chile and create a trio based upon their findings.

Summer Term 2

- West Side Story - The famous work choreographed by Jerome Robbins completes the programme of study in Year 8 as students look into gang culture and crime.

Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11)

Year 9

There are two pathways of study available and the course students undertake in year 9 prepares them for the demands of either the GCSE or BTEC pathway. Students participate in technique classes, conditioning and workshops to develop their choreographic and performance skills they will need in years 10 and 11. Students will have the opportunity to work alongside professional dance artists, perform in annual dance shows and be a part of many exciting projects in the wider community.

GCSE Dance

Students study the craft of performance and explore choreography through solo and group work. There are also written elements to the course that involve studying a variety of professional dance pieces, their development as a dancer and looking at different techniques of production.

- 80% of the course is practical
- 20% of the course is theory with a written exam in year 11

BTEC Dance

Students have the opportunity to study BTEC Level 1/2 First Award, where 3 units of work are completed. Students develop skills in different dance styles, create 2 contrasting solos based on a theme and become a member of their own dance company with the aim of coordinating their own show.

Exam results	2014	2015	2016
GCSE Dance	100% A-C	88% A-C	100% A*-C
BTEC Level 2	100% A-C	100% A-C	100% Distinction* - Pass

Post 16

The Dance department are starting A Level Dance in September 2013 to challenge our students' knowledge and understanding of Dance within the academic field.

We offer BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in year 12 and Diploma in year 13 where students look at developing a contemporary technique, choreographing solo and group dances, gaining an in-depth understanding of many dance styles, performing in front of live audiences and understanding the dancer in training.

If there are students that study Dance and Drama in Post 16 we tailor make a curriculum for them to gain the Extended Diploma in both subjects (triple award).

Trips

We love taking students to watch live performances on a regular basis. It allows the students to visit the theatre, maybe for the first time and aspire to be like the performers on stage!

Residential trips also happen in the Dance Department. In June 2013 students visited Blanc Mesnil in France as part of a community exchange project. In June 2014 there is a trip going to Venice, Italy where students will get the opportunity to perform and take part in workshops as well as see the sights that Italy has to offer!!

- Residential trip to Venice, Italy – June 2016
- Residential trip to Paris, France – June 2015
- Edward Scissorhands at Birmingham Hippodrome – January 2015
- Move It at London's Olympia exhibition centre – regular trip that takes place every two years
- Breakin' Convention at Birmingham Hippodrome – October 2014

Exam results	2013	2014	2016
A Level	n/a	n/a	100% A - B
BTEC Level 3	100% Distinction	100% Pass	100% Disatinction - Merit

Many of our students have gone on to study Dance at university, for example Liverpool Hope, Wolverhampton, and Coventry.