

Thomas Hardy Sixth Form

Newsletter 6— Performing Arts Special



Dear Student

We know that you will have many questions about the announcements that have been made this week. You should continue to engage with your learning and try to carry on as best you can. This also means thinking about your next steps.

There is still time to complete your sixth form application before our initial deadline of 22nd January. Applications can still be made after this date, but ideally the vast majority of students will make applications by this date.

Options can still be changed. Students will get to discuss their options with their tutor at THS or during a guidance meeting for external applications. Details about guidance meetings will follow later in the month. You can also email sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net.

You can register and apply [here](#).

The remainder of this newsletter looks at FAQs about our performing arts courses.

The Sixth Form Team

Dance

What is the proportion of theory to practical in A level dance and how are these assessed?

For the final assessment the proportion is 50:50. The theory paper involves answering short answer and essay questions based on the two areas of study, Rambert dance Company 1966-2002, and American Jazz (1940-1975). For the practical exam you are assessed on performance and choreography, which have equal weighting. You perform a solo in the style of a practitioner you have studied, for example Bob Fosse or Christopher Bruce and this can be tailored to your strength as a dancer and you also perform in a quartet. The choreography consists of creating a group dance for up to 5 dancers based on a set question from the exam board.

Performing Arts

Can I take this course without a GCSE in a performing arts subject?

Yes. Some schools don't offer performing arts GCSE's, so we ask that you ensure you have great grades in English and another creative subject (art, textiles etc). However, this is a performing course with lots of solo requirement for performance. You should not take this course if you are unwilling to perform or performing isn't something you enjoy.

Music Technology

Do I need to be a good performer to study Music Technology?

There is no part of the course in which you are examined on your ability to play an instrument. The course is designed to teach you to be a music producer/composer and not a performer. It is however necessary for you to have a good understanding of music, so most students are able to play an instrument. It is useful for students to be able to find their way around a piano keyboard as this will be the main tool used when composing.

Music

Do I need to have done GCSE music?

No. Although it is advantageous to have music GCSE many students have succeeded at A level without it.

Do I need to play an instrument or sing?

Yes. The expected standard by the end of year 13 is around grade 7 so we would expect you to be a minimum of grade 5 standard to start the course.

Do I need to be able to read music?

Yes. A level music involves analysis of musical scores. It can be learnt relatively quickly though with a bit of effort!

Theatre Studies

How much writing is involved?

This is an A Level, and contains a 3 hour written examination in which you must complete extended essay-based answers. Students have 2-3 theory lessons out of their fortnight timetable and these sessions are primarily 'written' lessons or the opportunity to express answers in a written medium. Otherwise, it's practical work where students should be exploring ideas and performance work.

For all enquiries please email the [Sixth Form Team](mailto:sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net) (sixthformteam@thomas-hardye.net)

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