

Love to act? Want to improve your skills in creating and performing? Want to try different styles of performance and understand more about where they came from?

Look no further: the BTEC in Performing Arts is for you!.

Course Outline

This specialist qualification in acting and performing is equivalent to an A Level. The Btec is a vocational course, and its highly practical approach aims to prepare you for a career in the arts industry.

You will develop your understanding and skills in different areas of acting, and gain more experience in performing in a variety of styles to different audiences. The course is a mixture of practical and theory based work, and to succeed you will have to provide evidence in both these areas. The course will draw on your ability both as an independent learner and a valued group contributor. In return, this course will stretch you, provide some of the most satisfying experiences for you at this stage of your career, and help you decide your future direction.

The course will be delivered in the modern, purpose-built Performing Arts Centre.

One of the elements of the course will be to visit as many different forms of theatre as possible. Visiting theatre companies will be brought in to help deliver parts of the course with a particular focus.

At St Peter's the BTEC in Performing Arts includes the National Certificate, a one year Level 3 qualification taken in Year 12 which will normally lead on to the Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts (Acting), taken in Year 13.

Year 12 Certificate in Performing Arts (Acting)

The Certificate in Performing Arts (Acting) is equivalent to one AS level (30 credits) and comprises 3 units. It is taken in Year 12 and consists of one compulsory core unit and two specialist options units.

Please note: the course is delivered from September through to July, through the examination period.

Principles of Acting Unit 19: Compulsory Core Unit.

You will learn about acting techniques from influential C20 theatre practitioners eg Stanislavski; Brecht; Boal; Artaud; Berkoff. These workshops and rehearsals will increase your understanding of techniques used by actors and directors and will guide you to use a professional approach when considering performance.

Specialist Units currently include:-

Devising Plays Unit 9

You will develop skills and techniques for generating original performance material. You will research their initial ideas and work in an ensemble to shape your material into a performance. Personal and time management skills underpin successful completion of this unit. This is a real step up from GCSE.

Working With Masks : Unit 16

This unit offers you the opportunity to develop a specialist set of skills which they can then apply to a performance of their choice. You research masks from around the world, and experiment with masks using both comic and tragic styles of performance.

Contemporary Theatre Performance: Unit 13

This unit gives you the chance to look at exciting modern plays and explore the possibilities for performance. You will prepare 2 extracts from different texts and perform these in front of an audience.

Auditions for Actors: Unit 18

This unit helps you understand and improve your preparation of pieces for the gateway to acting opportunity and success- the audition! You will have to prepare 2 pieces for audition and learn how to shine in an “unseen” audition, to help you stand out from the crowd!.

Year 13 Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts (Acting)

When you complete the 3 units in the Certificate in Year 12 you go on to take the Subsidiary Diploma. This deepens your experience, understanding and skills of performing arts and the vocational sector still further. It is currently the equivalent to one full A level.

Please note: we deliver the course from September through to July, through the examination period.

It includes the Core Unit Performing to an Audience, which is compulsory, and 2 further special options units.

Core Unit: Performing to an Audience

You will gain experience of carrying out a defined performance role using performance skills learned on the Certificate in front of a live audience, whose expectations and judgements will reflect those of a paying customer. A thoroughly professional approach to preparing for performance is required

Specialist units could include:

Developing Physical Theatre

You will learn about what Physical Theatre is, where it comes from and the many different styles of this exciting art form. You will do this by participating in workshops to explore different styles of Physical theatre, and researching both traditional and contemporary practitioners. You will showcase your own skills in 2 short devised pieces demonstrating your new found abilities in Physical Theatre!.

Theatre for Children/Theatre in Education

You will learn about the best practice in the world of Theatre in Education and focus this on children as an audience. You will research, create and perform a piece of drama to engage specifically for a young audience. The interaction and rapport which you build up with your audience is crucial for the success of the unit- and also provides lots of fun!

Site Specific Performance

You will explore ways of creating and presenting performance work specifically designed to take place in a non-traditional performance space.

How am I assessed?

Your learning is assessed by your teachers through assignments given to you throughout the course. You will use a variety of assessment methods to show evidence of your skills and knowledge to date. These can include: performances, rehearsals,

presentations, interviews (called vivas), case studies; essays; evaluations and witness statements. Your teacher will always set an assignment brief for each unit, which breaks down each task you need to complete to pass the unit.

All your assignments are based on learning outcomes set by Edexcel, and you will be given these when you receive these assignments. You need to pass ALL of these learning outcomes to pass the unit.

How do I get higher grades?

In the BTEC course, your assessors will grade your assignments as Pass, Merit or Distinction, providing you have met all the learning outcomes. In order to achieve a merit or distinction you need to offer work of a higher quality and increased quantity and relevance. To gain a Merit you need to meet all the Pass Criteria and all the Merit criteria. To gain a Distinction you need to meet all the Pass, all the Merit and all the Distinction Criteria. You will receive interim feedback from your teacher on both practical and written work and you will be guided on what to do to meet the next grade. Your final work for the unit will then be assessed by your teacher.

Your grades for all your assignments will earn you unit points. The number of points you get for each unit is added together and your total score determines your final grade for the qualification. These grades are Pass, Merit or Distinction. Your points and grade will convert also to UCAS points, which you will need to access higher education.

Future Opportunities

This vocational course is equivalent to an A Level qualification and provides access to a range of career opportunities which are recognised by colleges and employers. Performing Arts students develop excellent communication, improvisation and problem solving skills, have the ability to work creatively in a team and can present a required image to the public. Many employers look for these qualities in a potential candidate. This course can be combined with PE, Art, Leisure and Tourism and can lead to HND or BA Hons in Performing Arts related courses. Useful links with local arts companies and organisations are a feature of this course.

As part of your transition from Year 11 to Year 12 we would like you to complete set tasks over the summer that are designed to help you continue the good work you did at GCSE. The tasks will also prepare you for what to expect in BTEC Performing Arts (Acting).

These tasks are designed to take you between 11 and 14 hours to complete. In addition we expect you to research further into areas of theatre and drama which interest you. This might take the form of reading a play that you didn't study at GCSE English or Drama, or seeing a production locally or in London. It might take the form of detailed research about an actor, playwright, performer, musician, director, or artist you are interested in and have always wanted to find out more about. It could be a style of performance you are interested in. You need to present some evidence , be it an essay or a personal response about the play , a proper informed critical review, a speech lasting 2 minutes, an imaginary interview where you are the person talking about themselves...a presentation in the style you are interested in...

Set Tasks for BTEC Performing Arts(Acting).

1. As BTEC is a vocational course you will be expected to demonstrate high standards of group work, a positive attitude and high levels of commitment to achieve your outcomes. Your **first task** is to create a code of conduct/set of rules which you would like the group to follow. These should be expressed in a positive way, and will form the basis of a **Company Contract** you and your group will commit to while participating on the BTEC course. They might include : timekeeping and attendance/ outside commitments and priorities/ amount of contribution to the various projects/ how we treat each other/ expectations on participation in written/practical tasks/research tasks/ theatre visits.. **(1 hour)**

2. One of the projects we are currently running is entitled Theatre for Children. This involves researching current provision for children aged from 4-9 and generating a piece of theatre to engage, entertain and or inform them of a message or moral. Your **second task** is to to conduct some in depth research into Children's entertainment so that you can create an informed and relevant piece of theatre.

You need to research what is already produced for children of various ages.

Use BBC iplayer to watch a wide range of programs on cbeebies.

- What genre do the programmes fall into? Moralistic? Documentary? Specific Learning? Entertainment?
- What is the purpose of each programme?
- Look at TV listings – are the genres on together/at certain times of day?
- How long are the programmes? Is there a correlation between genre & length?
- How often are the programmes repeated?

Now compare your findings with CBBC, Milkshake (Channel 5) and Nickleodeon Jr – how are they similar? How are they different?

Present your findings on a Powerpoint ready to share with the group the first week back. **(2 hours)**

3. Your **third task** is to:-

Research examples of 4 companies which create and perform theatre for children.

Include:

Name, founder, when started, location

Number in the company currently and their role

Type : fixed venue or touring, or both

Audience aimed at

Values and beliefs (eg mission statement)

Style and techniques (should link to above)

Current production/ work

Past work : any notable work?

Anything unusual/ surprising about this company or its work?

Can we see any of their work ? (feel free to use Youtube and talk through any typical features of their work.

You should present this either in a grid form, using the questions as headings, or in an essay format. (2 hours)