

Wyke

6TH FORM COLLEGE



BTEC DANCE

Name:

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▲ BTEC Dance vs. A-level Dance

	BTEC Dance	A-level Dance
Entry Requirements	✓ 4 in GCSE English ✓ Minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4+ ✓ Successful completion of practical audition	✓ 5 in GCSE English ✓ Minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 5 ✓ Successful completion of practical audition
UCAS Points	D* = 56 D = 48 M = 32 P = 16	A* = 56 A = 48 B = 40 C = 32 D = 24 E = 16
Assessment Methods	✓ 33% External Assessment; pre-set choreography task by the exam board to create a dance in groups. Work is filmed and sent away for assessment ✓ 67% Coursework; majority filmed practical assessments alongside reflective logbooks ✓ External assessment has the option to re-sit up to 3 times ✓ Modular; assessments are sat regularly over the course of 2years and accumulate into a grade	✓ 50% Practical Exam; create 3 practical pieces and these are assessed live by a visiting examiner. In your 2nd year. Only performed once on exam day ✓ 50% Written Theory exam: 2 1/2hr written paper at end of 2nd year: short answer questions (25%) and three essays (75%) assessed in June of 2nd year
Content Covered	✓ Unit 3: Group Performance Workshop (externally assessed) ✓ Unit 34: Developing Skills and Techniques for Performance ✓ Unit 11: Street Dance Technique ✓ Unit 12: Contemporary Dance Technique ✓ Unit 22: Movement in Performance	Practical: ✓ Solo in the style of a famous choreographer 2-3mins (approved list from the exam board) ✓ Quartet in a contemporary style 3-4mins ✓ Choreography a 3-4mins dance in response to a set question Theory: ✓ Analyse 2 set study professional pieces in depth ✓ Analyse history and development of Rambert Dance company ✓ Understand development of contemporary Dance 2000+
Dance Genres	Wide variety of genres; including Contemporary, Jazz and Commercial	Predominantly Contemporary (option of jazz and ballet on some assessments)
Progression Option Notes	You do not need to be pursuing a career in dance to take either course. Likewise, both courses are widely accepted on dance-related progression options	
* Students can opt to study both subjects if they wish! *		

Extra-curricular Info

Dance Competition Squad	- Compete nationally; 2 x comps per year - Different competition pieces every time lunchtime - Audition in either Contemporary and/or Commercial and then you will be placed within the most appropriate piece (Our recommendation is to audition for both to increase your chances) - Final is a residential trip from Friday to Monday in Blackpool
Technique Class	- One or two timetabled lesson a week - Explores a range of different dance style techniques - Cross college
Theatre Trips	- Dependent on what is touring at the time e.g. Matthew Bourne's The Car Man this year - Compliment study on A-level and BTEC courses
Workshops & Employability	- Wide variety of workshops and visiting speakers visit Wyke as part of your programme of study - Pre Performance programme for subject specific experiences and support with HE - Workshops and Trips this year have included: Leeds Conservatoire, Arden, Stella Mann, Shockout, Addict Dance Academy, DeMontfort University, Bristol School of Acting, Northern School of Art, Love Aerial, Residential trip to London with Josh Pillmore and Rambert Dance, Las Vegas performance at the Allegiant Stadium.
Other Opportunities may include	- Christmas showcase: ALL students on a-level and BTEC must be available to perform as part of their assessment - One Play in a Day volunteering project - Cross College Production at Middleton Hall - Primary School visit (Teaching Opportunity) - Possible international and national performance opportunities



Written Transition Tasks

The written tasks below need to be completed prior to enrolment and can either be typed or handwritten.

Please bring a copy of the completed work with you to your first dance lesson in September.

If you have any questions on the tasks, please email: scarlet.hird@wyke.ac.uk

Task 1: Review of Practical Tasks

Using your group performance from Wyke Start, describe your 3 main strengths of your performance:	1. 2. 3.
Using your group performance from Wyke Start, describe your 3 main areas of development of your performance:	1. 2. 3.

Task 2: Analysis of Contemporary Practitioner

Beach Birds for Camera (1991) Choreographed by Merce Cunningham

- Cunningham said of his choreography for "Beach Birds", "It is all based on individual physical phrasing. The dancers don't have to be exactly together. They can dance like a flock of birds, when they suddenly take off." A work for eleven dancers, the rhythm for "Beach Birds" was much more fluid than other Cunningham dances, so that the sections could differ in length from performance to performance.
- John Cage composed the music, and painter Marsha Skinner provided the costumes and décor.
- The dancers were dressed identically in all white leotards and tights, with black gloves. Skinner's backcloth was a white scrim on which the light varied in colour and intensity, decided by a lighting plot that was devised using chance methods. While the timings did not relate to the dance structure, the gradual changes of light have been interpreted to imitate those that might occur from dawn to dusk on a beach. "Beach Birds" was adapted for film and called "Beach Birds for Camera."

<https://www.mercecunningham.org/the-work/choreography/beach-birds/>

Find out more about Merce Cunningham here <https://www.mercecunningham.org/about/merce-cunningham/>

Watch the excerpt of Merce Cunningham's 'Beach Bird for Camera' <https://vimeo.com/141096694>. This video shows the first 14 minutes of the piece, you will see two different physical settings. One being in a studio and another in a stage

setting. Merce Cunningham was a pioneer of contemporary dance, he strived to experiment and collaborate to create original and unusual choreography that moved away from 'traditional' contemporary. His movement explored the idea of Ballet legs and Contemporary arms whilst being rhythmically random.

Listed in the first column are 4 key stylistic features of Merce Cunningham. Using the video above and through your own research, answer the questions below.

Key Features of Cunningham Style	Evidence from the Dance: Please describe the moment in <u>DETAIL</u>
Costumes: Describe and explain how the costumes show the theme	

