

Performing Arts Rationale KS3/4  
 Todmorden High School 2018-19

The Performing Arts department at Todmorden High School consists of Music, Dance and Drama. The curriculum is delivered in a way to match the school's core values of respect, care and honesty, combined with a passion and exploration of the Arts. Pupils at Todmorden High School have the opportunities to thrive and develop their skills through these subjects across key stage 3, continuing onto key stage 4 through the options process.

Engaging students with music, dance and drama is at the forefront of the curriculum design, alongside catering to all student's needs, where ever their starting point. Todmorden High School is an inclusive school and our students are taught in mixed ability classes to showcase this inclusivity and engagement of all students. The many disciplines taught throughout the Performing Arts curriculum enables students to build confidence, understand the power and emotion of performance art, work collaboratively with others to create performances and to develop higher thinking skills through a practical approach. GCSE skills, knowledge and understanding runs throughout the KS3 curriculum in order to prepare students for further study.

All Performing Arts subjects are delivered at key stage 3 through a timetabled carousel. This means pupils in year 7 have 2 performing arts lessons per week (music, drama, dance & Spanish) which rotates half way through the year.

For year 8 and 9 the carousel is slightly different with the rotation occurring twice in the year, over 13 week blocks. Music, dance and drama subjects are studied under the performing arts carousel.

**Year 8/9 Performing Arts carousel example**

Class	PA lesson 1 each week			PA lesson 2 each week		
	1-13	14-26	27-39	1-13	14-26	27-39
<b>9x1</b>	Drama	Dance	Drama	Music	Music	Dance
<b>9x2</b>	Dance	Music	Music	Dance	Drama	Drama
<b>9x3</b>	Music	Drama	Dance	Drama	Dance	Music

**Year 7 Performing Arts carousel example**

Class	PA lesson 1		PA lesson 2	
Weeks	Sept 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 25 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Sept 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 25 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>7a1</b>	Drama	Dance	Music	Spanish
<b>7a2</b>	Dance	Drama	Spanish	Music

Currently, at key stage 4 we offer GCSE drama, taught 3 lessons per week and BTEC First Award in Music, taught 3 lessons per week. We also run GCSE Music alongside the Year 11 BTEC Music course for one student.

The Performing Arts subjects are taught by a range of staff who bring many creative elements and variety to the courses. Within the KS3 drama curriculum, pupils have the opportunity to develop and expand their abilities in various areas of drama, such as set and stage design, costumes, lighting and sound. This reflects the options offered to students

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throughout the GCSE Drama course. They will also study the standard drama skills of devising, performing from a text and theatre and performance evaluation. Highlighting the skills, knowledge and understanding students need in order to succeed with the current GCSE Drama syllabus.

Dance and fitness is now offered within the KS3 carousel to expand the Performing Arts department. This subject gives opportunities for students to develop an extra understanding of how the arts collaborate and work together. This curriculum is delivered through the PE department.

In the past, music at KS3 has followed the GCSE Music specification, allowing students to develop their skills in order to prepare for the options process in year 9. This includes opportunities to perform, compose and appraise music through listening and analysis of music theory. As the KS4 Music course has changed to a BTEC award, offering more freedom and flexibility for all students wanting to continue their musical learning at all levels, the aim is to reflect the BTEC skills, knowledge and understanding throughout the KS3 music carousel curriculum. Students will continue to have opportunities to compose and perform. However, there is more emphasis on becoming a reflective and independent learner. Written evidence of learning, through portfolios of work on specific tasks and understanding the job roles and responsibilities within the music industry will be added to the KS3 curriculum. This is in line with the current BTEC specification.

**Key Stage 4 Music and Drama overview**

<b>GCSE Drama</b>	
Component 1	Devising
Component 2	Performance from a text
Component 3	Theatre makers in practice
<b>BTEC Music</b>	
Unit 1	The Music Industry
Unit 2	Managing a music product
Unit 4	Introducing music composition
Unit 5	Introducing music performance