

HIGHDOWN SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Frequently Asked Questions



PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

The Performing Arts faculty welcomes you to Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

What subjects are in the Performing Arts faculty?

Drama and Music.

How is Music and Drama taught?

Music and Drama is taught predominately through practical and active learning tasks with theory built into the lessons.

What extra-curricular activities do you offer?

Drama: Drama clubs, junior production & whole school musical.

Music: Orchestra, House Band, Chamber Orchestra, Senior choir, Junior choir, Funk & Soul Group, Ukulele group & whole school production.

Dance: Dance Company (Audition based).

What is the Performing Arts Ambassadors scheme?

Students are rewarded for their engagement and enthusiasm in Music and Drama by receiving PA points for positive behaviour points they receive in class. Also, PA points are rewarded for extracurricular activities. Students become PA Ambassadors once they reach the Bronze level = 100 PA points, Silver = 250 and Gold = 400.

Are we taught in sets or mentor groups?

KS3 Drama and Music are taught in mentor groups.

MUSIC

Do you offer music lessons?

Peripatetic lessons are offered at school through West Berkshire Maestros and private music teachers.

What subjects do you offer at KS4 & KS5?

GCSE Music & Music Technology, A level Music & Music Technology.

How many music lessons do KS3 students have?

1 per week at Year 7 & Year 9, 3 per fortnight Year 8.

What accommodation do you have?

We have three music teaching classrooms with practice rooms attached. One of these is the specialist music technology room which has a live room and studio attached. We use Cubase across all the school for music technology.

DRAMA**How many drama lessons do KS3 have?**

3 per fortnight at Year 7 and 1 per week for Year 8 & 9.

What facilities do you have in Drama?

We have 2 Drama studios, both with lighting and sound facilities. DR2 has recently had a lighting refurbishment upgrading all the lanterns to LED.

What topics do you study in Drama?

We study a wide breadth of topics at KS3 including - Introduction to Drama, Script Studies, Theatre History, Social Drama, Devising and Improvisation.

How is Drama assessed?

Drama is assessed formatively during the lessons and then summative at the end of each term via a performance and reflection task.

What transferrable skills does Drama teach?

Team working, verbal and written communication skills, problem solving, time management, research skills, people management.