

## PERFORMING ARTS Department

Plymstock School is passionate about the role of Performing Arts within the curriculum as well as being an extra-curricular activity. The department has thrived over recent years and exam results have been outstanding compared to other schools nationally. Our students genuinely enjoy partaking in the arts at Plymstock School, within lessons that are exciting, purposeful and full of enthusiasm.

The Music Department is equipped with two teaching rooms, one a traditional Music classroom with fifteen keyboards and various percussion instruments and guitars. Our second teaching room has recently been renovated into a Music Technology suite where our students use Soundation, Sibelius and Focus on Sound, through the use of midi keyboards.

The Drama Department consists of two purpose built studios, with the ability to convert into one large performance space. The studios are fitted with two lighting rigs, complete with dimmer boards and a wide range of lanterns. Teachers have full use of a sound system in each studio, and projectors for theory work or to use as part of a performance. Once converted into one performance space, we have a curtain rail and backdrop which is used to define the acting space. Our Dance studio is fully equipped mirrored walls, sound system and lighting rig, and is often booked by community dance groups outside of normal school hours.

In 2022, we are due to complete work on a new Arts Centre; a purpose built 380 person capacity theatre complete with retractable seating, LED lighting, sprung floor and art gallery space. We are very excited by the opportunities this project will provide our students as we further develop our performing arts programmes.

Students currently have lessons in Music and Drama throughout Key Stage 3 and are taught in mixed ability sets. Both departments focus very much on practical work and encourage the students to perform as much as possible. Recent schemes of work in Music have included film music, pop performance, theme and variations and dance remixes. In Drama students have explored various themes and genres including Shakespeare, bullying, improvisation and silent movies. These varied schemes of work have encouraged students to opt to continue the subjects into Key Stage 4 and we currently have 42 students taking the GCSE Music course and 60 students taking the GCSE Drama course. Recent results in both subjects have been consistently excellent, and we pride ourselves on the quality of work our students produce.

We also deliver success at KS5 in the form of AQA Theatre Studies. The course consists of analysing live theatre performances and of play texts; the study of a range of theatrical styles and companies plus an assessed performance during each year. We study the work of a wide range of theatre practitioners such as Frantic Assembly, Stephen Berkoff, and Dario Fo. We are hoping to reintroduce OCR A-Level Music from 2021.

As an Arts Department we encourage as much curriculum enrichment as possible. We make regular visits to the theatre and concerts and have a good relationship with TR2 and the Plymouth Music Hub. Around 80-100 students per year regularly take part in the annual school shows, Most recent shows include Bugsy Malone, Annie, School of Rock, and Sister Act. These productions are run to a very high standard and attract audiences of over 1000 people; many of which have been highly complementary of our talented Drama and Music students.



If you would like more information about the Performing Arts Department please contact Kris Chick at: [kchick@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:kchick@plymstockschool.org.uk)