



ADDITIONAL READING AND ACTIVITIES LIST

PERFORMING ARTS, MUSIC AND MEDIA

BTEC Dance



Practical preparation

- Attend dance classes in any genre, focus on ballet, contemporary or jazz to help you maintain posture, alignment and strong technique.
- Watch as much dance professional work as possible, either in the theatre or online/streaming platforms.
- Consider your own creative ideas and outlets - keep a journal of ideas of things you wish to create and explore creativity.
- Analyse and research key practitioners to prepare you for your studies such as: Martha Graham, Limon, Merce Cunningham, Horton Technique, Alvin Ailey, Pina Bausch, Matthew Bourne, Trisha Brown, Jerome Robbins.
- Purchase appropriate clothing and footwear: black leotard & tights/black t-shirt & legging/joggers. All dancers will be required to wear either jazz shoes, ballet shoes, turners or dance with bare feet.
- Organise access to a device (laptop or iPad) to bring to the lessons in order to complete theory tasks and coursework.



ADDITIONAL READING AND ACTIVITIES LIST

PERFORMING ARTS, MUSIC AND MEDIA

A Level Music Technology and BTEC Music



For Music Technology and BTEC Music, experience of using production software to create music prior to the course can have great benefits. The edit screens and features tend to be very similar across multiple platforms, and getting used to these screens early helps to unleash creativity sooner.

Here is a very good, free Digital Audio Workstations (DAW)
<https://producelikeapro.com/blog/free-daws-best-available-2018/>

To gain experience, develop your composition techniques making use of the following production / editing features:

- Using multiple tracks (drum parts, bass, etc)
- Copy, paste and looping of regions within the 'arranging' area / window
- Quantization (helping to keep parts in time)
- Laying parts • Bass line • Drum Patter • Keyboard playing chords / patterns. Try and use an arpeggiator..
- Automation helps to change something over time, like volume.
You could have something fading in or out etc.
- Applying effects such as reverb.

If there are any words above that you haven't heard of before, or don't understand, there are many sources on the internet that will help you.



ADDITIONAL READING AND ACTIVITIES LIST

PERFORMING ARTS, MUSIC AND MEDIA

Drama and Theatre Studies



Our A Level Drama teacher Sarah has created an excellent website for all prospective drama students.

The aim of this site is to help you get prepared for different parts of the course. The more prepared you are, the quicker you can get up to speed. The more you read and learn before starting the course, the more practical work you can do in class and the quicker you will develop as an independent learner (which is really important for succeeding at A-levels)

Click the link below to visit the site, hope you enjoy!

<https://sites.google.com/blackpoolsixth.ac.uk/dramapreparation/home>



ADDITIONAL READING AND ACTIVITIES LIST

PERFORMING ARTS, MUSIC AND MEDIA

BTEC Musical Theatre



Practical Preparation

- Attend dance classes in any genre, focus on ballet, contemporary or jazz to help you maintain posture, alignment and strong technique.
- Attend a choir/singing lessons if possible to develop confidence and vocal technique. Vocal warm ups can also be used to develop technique. Warm up exercises can be accessed on YouTube, see this link to access Pete Faint's vocal warm ups: [Pete Faint - YouTube](#)
- Watch as much Musical Theatre professional work as possible, either in the theatre or online/streaming platforms.
- Purchase appropriate clothing and footwear: black leotard & tights/black t-shirt & leggings/joggers. During dance/movement sessions, you will be required to wear either jazz shoes, ballet shoes, turners or dance with bare feet.
- Organise access to a device (laptop or iPad) to bring to the lessons in order to complete theory tasks and coursework.



ADDITIONAL READING AND ACTIVITIES LIST

PERFORMING ARTS, MUSIC AND MEDIA

A level Media

You can learn more about the course by looking at our website for new students.

[CLICK HERE](#)

You will be provided with a range of resources to use online when you begin your media course, but we would highly recommend purchasing and reading the following books prior to starting the course:

- [WJEC/Eduqas Media Studies for A Level Year 1 & AS](#) by Christine Bell (Author), Lucas Johnson (Author)
- [Media Studies: A Complete Introduction: Teach Yourself](#), by Joanne Hollows (Author)

A level Film

You can learn more about the course by looking at our website for new students.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Watching

Although there is obviously an expectation that A level Film students have a healthy interest in cinema, here is a list of suggested films that you should watch before starting the course. They are all linked to case studies that you will cover. With easy access to streaming sites, you should find these films easily.

- Hollywood/auteur cinema - at least one Hitchcock film; at least one Hollywood musical from the 1950s or 1960s; at least one example of contemporary independent American cinema ([this list is a good starting point](#))
- British cinema - any modern British horror or science fiction film. [This list provides a good range.](#)
- Spanish film - any film from Spain or Mexico, although any work by the Mexican filmmaker Guillermo del Toro will also be useful (including his work in Hollywood). [Consider the films on this list.](#)
- Documentary - any feature-length documentary. [This list has some excellent examples.](#)

Reading

- WJEC Eduqas Film Studies for A Level & AS, [Lisa Wardle](#) (Author), [Ellen Cheshire](#) (Author), [Mark Ramey](#) (Author), [Jenny Stewart](#) (Author)
- Introduction to Film Studies by [Jill Nelmes](#) (Editor)



ADDITIONAL READING AND ACTIVITIES LIST

PERFORMING ARTS, MUSIC AND MEDIA

BTEC Film and TV



Watching

- Auteur Study - watch a range of films from a director you like or would like to learn more about. Suggestions would include Martin Scorsese, Spike Lee, Wes Anderson, Christopher Nolan and Greta Gerwig.
- Documentary - watch a range of documentaries particularly those created as Netflix Originals. Recommendations include *Pepse Where's My Jet*, *The Pez Outlaw*, *Fyre* and *How To Become A Tyrant*.
- Disney Horror Project - watch a range of horror films from different sub genres and time periods. [This list](#) is a good starting point. If you scare easily then it is recommended to seek older horror films from the 30s and 40s as these will share the relevant conventions without necessarily being scary to a modern audience.

You Will Need:

- A pair of headphones (either wired or bluetooth)
- A 32gb (minimum), class 10 memory card [example](#)
- A USB memory card reader [example](#)
- *Some students also find it useful to have an external hard drive/memory stick - we would recommend at least 512gb of storage.*