

More Able in PE & Performing Arts Faculty

Drama

In class

In Drama lessons, more able students are encouraged to aim for the more challenging objectives in the lesson. At year 9, these are often GCSE style tasks and students are encouraged to work at that level. In group work, more able students are either given directorial roles in mixed ability groups or are challenged with higher ability scenarios and scripts. Where appropriate, students who demonstrate a flair and aptitude in Drama are given a “one of your own” option which encourages them to devise and create more freely. More able year 8 and 9 students are chosen to watch exam performances by GCSE and A-level students to stretch and challenge their creativity and allow them to experience theatrical conventions that they may not have explored in lesson time.

Educational Visits & Trips

Various educational visits take place for all year groups. Year 7 and 8 are offered theatre trips in the Summer term to West End Productions such as School of Rock. Year 9 visit the theatre in January and watch performances that link to the set Schemes of Work. A biannual overseas trip to the USA is organised for years 9-13. Here, students experience many new and exciting workshops such as Improvisation and Stage Combat taught by specialists. They also have the opportunity to meet famous actors who give them invaluable advice on ‘the business’. The other biannual event run is the Young Americans visit. This is an intensive weekend workshop where students put on a whole production in a day and a half!

Extra-curricular

Year 7 and 8 Drama club is offered weekly at lunchtimes. Year 9 more able students are invited to their own specialist masterclass at lunchtime to prepare specifically and early for GCSE work. There is an A/V Tech club for years 7 and 8 students and years 9-13 make up the AV tech team. Every February St Martin’s put on an Upper School Production where the more able students in Key Stage 4 and 5 have an opportunity to perform to large audiences. Some popular shows have included Made in Dagenham and Les Miserables. The Lower School Production takes place every June where Key Stage 3 students sing, dance and act in front of their peers, parents, teachers and The Mayor! Shows have included Aladdin and Alice in Wonderland.

Useful websites

<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/learning>

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/education>

Music

In class

In music, more able students are given leadership roles within composition groups and in group performances. Students have an opportunity of further performances in class on their own instrument/voice and are encouraged to try different skills such as different instruments.

In Year 9, more able students have the opportunity to participate in GCSE style projects, encouraging them to aim for the highest grades and introducing a more facilitated approach to their learning. Some students may be fast-tracked on to instrumental teachers to target their specific needs.

Educational Visits & Trips

Various trips take place every year for Music students, these have included residential trips to Disneyland Paris and Barcelona. In a recent tour to Holland our more able pupils gave live performances in public places and took part in composition workshops. Students were also given the opportunity to experience singing in recording studios.

We offer students the chance to take part in workshops run by external practitioners in school as well as workshops at other schools focussing on GCSE and A-level skills.

Extra-curricular

There are many extra-curricular activities for music students including choirs and various ensembles (such as Steel Pans, Concert Band & Music Technology) along with opportunities to be involved in music concerts and school productions. We also produce performances with the advanced choir and take part in community events such as St. Martin's Day. More able students are actively encouraged to conduct and lead ensembles at lunchtimes and afterschool to enhance their musical development.

Useful websites

www.alevelmusic.com

bandlab.com

musictheory.net

teoria.com

Physical Education

In class

In all years there is a focus on differentiation by task as well as outcome. Lesson preparation makes provision for a range of extension activities that give the opportunity to challenge and develop our more able students in a variety of learning styles. Students are given a range of physical, psychological and social tasks. We use National Curriculum level descriptors, communicating in every lesson where students should be aiming and how to get there. More able students have the opportunity to accelerate through the set schemes of work and incorporate higher level skills in their performances. More able students are consistently asked to extend their subject specific vocabulary when evaluating their own and others' work.

Pupils are taught in single sex classes for core PE. After a thorough induction programme students are set according to games ability, which provides an excellent environment for more able students to develop their performance skills further.

When teaching dance, girls are taught in mixed ability groups with the more able students challenged to choreograph work. The more able students will also be required to analyse and improve the performance of other students, which builds confidence and self-esteem.

Over the years many outside agencies have visited St Martin's to work with our more able students, allowing them to sample new activities. In 2018 for example, World Champion Skipping Rope Performing Artist Adrienn Banhegyi led a jump rope workshop for selected students.

Theory teaching

In GCSE, BTEC and A-level PE lessons more able students are set innovative theoretical challenges with the opportunity to develop ideas through advanced questioning. Small working groups of more able students will often be assigned extension tasks and frequently be trusted with a greater degree of autonomy. Extension tasks are also set for homework and wider subject related reading is encouraged. Our marking and feedback provide advice on how to produce the highest level answers.

Educational Visits & Trips

Various trips take place every year and have included sports tours to Marbella, Barcelona, South Africa and Barbados. More academic enrichment visits have taken place to Loughborough University and The Body Worlds exhibitions.

Extra-curricular

Students who show a high level of flair and aptitude in sport have countless opportunities to further develop their skills and fitness through a broad range of extra-curricular activities. Regular training sessions are timetabled for years 7-11 before school, at lunch and after school. St Martin's competes in Brentwood District, Mid-Essex, County, Regional and National competitions and have regularly made National Finals in invasion, striking and fielding and racket sports as well as athletic and aesthetic activities. In addition, as part of the house system, inter-form competition gives the more able students a chance to lead their peers in competitive structures.

We have many school club links. Our more able students are identified early and actively encouraged to join local clubs outside of school such as Brentwood RFC and Hutton CC. Southend United lead our Girls' Football extra-curricular club after school every week. Mrs Swan is the School Club Liaison Officer for Brentwood Netball Club and Basildon Athletics Club.

A large number of more able students regularly coach and officiate key stage 3 teams. This has proved to be very motivating for both groups of students.

Annually we hold a Sports Award celebration evening where we present pupils who have represented the school with certificates in the following activities:

Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cricket, Cross-Country, Football, Gymnastics, Netball, Rounders, Rugby, Swimming, Tennis and Trampolining.

In addition, trophies are awarded for the player of the season in each sport and for the most committed students in each year group. The Lewis Fraser Memorial Trophy is a very special accolade presented for overall contribution to Rugby and we also present two Young Helpers prizes. To finish the evening a Lower School Overall Contribution Award is presented to the pupils who have made the most significant impact in physical education and sport over the past three years.

Achievements of our more able students are published daily on the school Twitter and significant victories celebrated in the local press.

Useful websites

<https://theeverlearner.com/>

<https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/physical-education-level-revision>

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/ztrcg82>

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