



Thomas Telford School Performing Arts Academy

Performing Arts at Thomas Telford School is well established and has an enviable reputation for providing young people with outstanding training in all aspects of performance work. Students leave with a good base of skills and experience to enable them to go on to further training at University or by securing a place at a vocational Stage School.

The Course:

Students follow the nationally recognised Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Musical Theatre (equivalent to 3 A-levels). This course will enable students to gain both academic and vocational skills in all areas of performing arts (Dance, Drama and Singing) and equip them with the expertise to progress onto performing arts related courses or employment in the entertainment industry.

Academic Programme of Study:

Students study 17 modules over a 2 year period which will have a total of 1080 guided learning hours. Six core modules will be studied which include: Performance Workshop, The Performing Arts Business, The Historical Context of Performance, Rehearsing for Performance, Performing to an Audience and Musical Theatre Performance. In addition to this, a further 11 modules will be taken from a variety of optional units in dance, drama and singing.

As an extension to the course students will have the opportunity to gain external qualifications in singing graded work and acting. They will complete an AS level in Information Technology to compliment their studies.

Facilities:

Facilities at Thomas Telford School are impressive, and performing arts students have access to two dance/drama studios, a well equipped theatre and a suite of music and music technology rooms. Students who wish to supplement their physical training also have access to the state of the art fitness centre offering the very latest fitness training equipment and staff expertise to develop a programme for individual fitness needs.

Performances Showcase opportunities:

Performance opportunities are a core aspect of the vocational Diploma and students get the opportunity to showcase their learning throughout the year at 3 Arts Nights (one per term). Students are expected to demonstrate a highly professional approach to the showcase in an environment where they develop their performance skills and understanding. This is a pivotal aspect of the training that the

School provide. Students work alongside technical theatre students who provide professional sound and lighting for each showcase event.

The School Show:

Thomas Telford School has an excellent reputation for producing highly professional School shows. There is an annual musical production each Spring term. Each show provides different challenges, the theatre is completely transformed into a professional space and our Diploma students take part in of an exciting opportunity to work intensively on this project. Students work with professional musicians, costume designers, sound and lighting designers and a professional set is hired in. Students will have opportunity to both perform and assume roles of stage manager and stage crew.

Technical Theatre

There is an opportunity, for students who are interested, to learn technical theatre skills running the technical aspect for both Arts Night showcases and the annual School Production. Students have opportunity to work with state of the art lighting and sound equipment. Many students choose to continue to develop their skills in this area at degree level.

Professional Artists

Working with professional artists is fundamental to vocational training and students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of different workshops and work with companies that visit the school. The School maintains strong links with ex students working in the industry or training at prestigious Stage Schools and they frequently return to share their expertise through workshops. In addition to this there is a comprehensive schedule of trips to local and West End theatres together with a residential trip to New York to visit Broadway to participate in performance related workshops and classes.

Career Progression:

Students attending the Academy will have opportunity to progress academically and also into the performing arts industry via an academic pathway. Students can choose to progress via:

- Entry to University to study a performing arts related degree

- Entry to vocational stage school to study a professional diploma or foundation diploma or degree programme
- Direct entry into performance/entertainment related work/employment.

Audition support:

Students who are studying the Diploma will have considerable support throughout their 2 years training and will build an audition portfolio. Students will have a formal audition at the end of Year 1 to help them prepare for the auditions they will face if they continue their training/education after Thomas Telford School. There are also 2 opportunities to audition for professional training courses in year 2 when visiting professionals from the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts (ALRA) and Guildford School of Acting (GSA) who come into School to deliver first round auditions for students who are interested in a place at their institution. In addition to this there is an annual visit to The Urdang Academy, Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPPA) and Compose Your Future UCAS event.

Performing Arts Alumni

Thomas Telford School performing arts students have a well established success rate for securing prestigious Stage School places and for working in the Performing Arts industry. Students have moved onto;

Guildford School of Acting, Mountview Academy, Bird College, Urdang Academy, London Studios Centre, Laban, London Contemporary Dance School, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Vocal Tech, Birmingham School of Speech and Drama, Rose Bruford, Laine Theatre Arts, and many more.

Successful students performing:

Leading roles in the West End or UK/European tours:

Erica Deakin (Billy Elliott/Oliver) Sophie Bould (Sound of Music) Seth Bailey (Spamalot) Kimmy Edwards (Legally Blonde) Grace McKee (Evita) Carl Morris (Starlight Express/Chitty Chitty Bang Bang) Anna Kazuba (Scottish Ballet) Kathryn Henrys (Lord of the Dance) Matthew Rozier (TV work/commercials/voice overs) Ben Marshall (assistant technical manager for touring show) and many more.....

If you have talent the Academy will help you realise your dream.