

EDUCATION EVOLVED

Performing Arts Acting

What is the difference between BTEC Performing Arts – Acting and A Level Drama & Theatre?

There are more similarities than differences. The A Level Drama & Theatre focuses on all aspects of theatre making – directing, designing, acting, devising; it sets you up for the academic study of Drama & Theatre, preparing you for university; the assessment for the qualification is more like a sprint – you are training in the early part of the course, ready for the final exams in Year 2. The BTEC Performing Arts – Acting course focuses solely on the role of the actor; it focuses more on the vocation of becoming an actor, training routes and employability skills; the assessment begins early on in the first year – it is more like a marathon.

Do Universities accept BTEC's?

BTEC qualifications are worth the same UCAS points as A Levels and they are widely accepted on all Performing Arts related degrees and Drama/Performing Arts Schools across the UK. The Acting course that we offer is the Extended Certificate which is worth the same amount of UCAS points as 1 A Level.

What do I need to wear for practical lessons?

Comfortable clothing eg. Leggings/joggers and t-shirts (you can wear the Academy T-shirts but these are not compulsory). You need to be able to move around in practical work and look professional at all times.

Will there be written work in BTEC Acting?

Yes, there are elements of the course that require written work. The benefit of a BTEC course, is that written work is largely coursework based, with only one exam throughout the whole course, which you will receive the questions for in advance and be able to prepare your answers for before completing it. Other written work includes reflective logs, research and presentations, although you can find verbal or recorded ways of submitting this.

Are there performance opportunities?

Yes, you will have showcase performances of curriculum work throughout the college year. You will participate in plays and productions as part of both courses and have the opportunity to perform in extra-curricular events.

Are there any after college or weekend rehearsals?

Students are expected to show a high level of organisation and good time management, due to the expectation of rehearsal time outside of class. Where possible all rehearsals will take place in College hours between 9am and 4pm. Close to a final performance or assessments additional rehearsals may need to take place after college hours but you will be given advance notice of this. You will be expected to attend and perform in evening performances and assessments. A high level of commitment and enthusiasm is required on the course as it is time consuming but very fulfilling.

What can I do after completing the course at St Brendan's?

Students completing these courses have gone on to Higher Education courses such as BA Honours degrees in Drama or Acting, and a selection of students have gone on to Performing Arts Schools. Aside from a career as a professional performer, a qualification in Performing Arts or Drama can lead to

jobs in Arts Management, Directing, Choreographing, Drama therapy, Education/Teaching, Production, as a Sound or Lighting Technician, Marketing, Events Management Arts Administration and much much more. The transferable skills learned in this qualification also provide essential skills required by employers such as confidence, public speaking skills, creative thinking, problem solving, working as a team and the ability to manage other people.

What is the Performing Arts Academy?

The Academy is in its 5th year and has a range of partners including 3rd Stage Dance, West Acting Workshop (Film and TV acting) Curtain Up Theatre School Bath, Bath School of Acting (BSA). 3rd Stage dance and West Acting workshop offer weekly sessions in dance technique and acting for Film and TV respectively at a small additional cost and opportunities with Curtain Up and BSA include support with auditions to Drama school, Q and A sessions on careers and industry links, practical drama, dance and physical theatre workshops. These partnerships give you the opportunity to access practical workshops to extend your skills in PA with industry professionals supporting you with your progress into and experience of the industry to prepare you for a career in the Performing Arts or Higher Education courses whilst enriching your overall College experience:

- Workshops and masterclasses with local theatre companies and industry professionals (E.g. The Paper Birds, Travelling Light Theatre Company, Film & TV Acting courses)
- Opportunities to be involved in performance work (e.g. National Theatre Connections)
- One to one singing lessons
- Professional-standard head shot to support industry applications
- Theatre trips to see professional work (e.g. Bristol Old Vic, the Tobacco Factory, Theatre Royal Bath & West End)

What courses can I do alongside BTEC Performing Arts?

You can study other A Levels or BTEC's in any subject area. These can include other Performing Arts and music courses. However, you cannot study Performing Arts – Musical Theatre alongside Performing Arts – Acting, as they are the same qualification. Additionally, we do not recommend that you A Level Drama & Theatre as well as BTEC Acting as there is an overlap in course content. You could, however take BTEC Musical Theatre and A Level Drama & Theatre. If you are interested in a full Performing Arts programme of study we can suggest a variety of options.