

EDUCATION EVOLVED

Performing Arts Musical Theatre

What's the difference between The Extended Certificate and the Diploma?

The Extended Certificate is worth 1 A level and the Diploma is worth 2 A levels.

The Ext Cert focuses on practical skills in all three disciplines of Musical Theatre – Singing, Acting and Dance as well as learn about Performing Arts practitioners and sit a written exam.

For the Diploma you will complete the same units as for extended certificate plus units in other areas of Performing Arts such as Variety Performance and Performing Arts in the community which explores skills in putting on a production, creating original performances and behind the scenes elements of the industry such as costume, props, scenery, lighting and sound.

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.

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 in lessons). Suitable supportive underwear is also important. You need to be able to move around in practical work and look professional at all times. No low cut or cropped tops, long hair needs to be tied back, no jewellery, bare feet or jazz shoes for dance.

Do I need to buy anything for the course/What Equipment do I need?

You will become a member of the Performing Arts Academy and will need to purchase a T-shirt for £13. If you qualify for bursary fund the cost of T-shirt will be covered for you.

You will need to purchase or borrow black jazz shoes for assessments. Some trips and workshops will have a small fee which will be relayed in good time. Students will need a folder, notepad and pen

Will there be written work in Musical Theatre?

Yes, there will be written work in Musical Theatre, with reflective logs, research and presentations forming a large percentage of the course. 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.

Are there performance opportunities?

Yes, you will have showcase performances throughout the college year and have the opportunity to perform in extra-curricular events. You will participate in the full scale Main Musical in our purpose built theatre in your 2nd year. Previous productions have included Little Shop of Horrors, Grease, West Side Story and The Addams Family.

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 (for example until 5pm once a week) 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 BTEC Performing Arts – Musical Theatre course at St Brendan's?

Do Universities accept BTEC's?

Students completing this course have gone on to Higher Education courses such as BA Honours degrees in, Performing Arts, Dance, Drama, Music and Musical Theatre 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 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.

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Will I need to have singing lessons? How much will they cost?

One to one singing lessons with one of our peripatetic teachers are compulsory. They are an important part of developing confidence and technique in singing to support ensemble performance. These will take place weekly for 30 minutes. They cost £140 a term for ten lessons. Our teachers are all industry specialists with current enhanced DBS checks and are experienced in teaching at St Brendan's on our Performing Arts and Music courses and work closely with course leaders to support assessments.

How is the course assessed?

There is a mixture of internally and externally assessed units across both the Extended certificate and the Diploma. Teachers will assess internally assessed units and these will be Internally verified before being externally. Externally assessed units will be marked by the exam board. Some units are mandatory and make up 75% of the overall qualification and 25% of units are "optional" and selected by the course leader. There is one written exam which is externally assessed – for this you will be given the theme 4 weeks before the written exam to prepare notes and you can take notes into the exam with you. Practical assessments will be video recorded.

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 include other Performing Arts and music courses but not exclusive to.

The only course you cannot study alongside Performing Arts – Musical Theatre is Performing Arts – Acting as they are the same qualification.

Some examples of course combinations are:

- BTEC Performing Arts Diploma and A level Drama/ A level Music / A level French / A level History / A level Geography / A level Photography
- BTEC Performing Arts Extended Certificate, A level Sociology and A level Dance
- BTEC Performing Arts Extended Certificate, A level English literature, A level Criminology and GCSE Maths

Why study “BTEC Performing Arts – Musical Theatre” at St Brendan’s?

We can offer a programme of enrichment and vocational study whilst developing your skills and techniques in performance and independent study. This is course is an excellent stepping stone for subject related HE courses and further training/employment and alongside more traditional A levels. You will have access to state of the art facilities for rehearsals and performances in our purpose built theatre and dance studio. You will receive outstanding tuition from our team of experienced teachers and subject specialists in singing, acting and dance. We are supportive and approachable and alongside our academic mentors we will help you with any aspects of learning that you might need support with. You become part of a caring community where you can thrive and develop your skills and experience of Performing Arts as a whole.