



# BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts

Edexcel Examination Board



# Who are my teachers??



Mrs Bennett  
Drama

Miss Halkic  
Dance

Mrs Hannaford  
Music

A young girl with a pink bow in her hair, wearing a pink tutu, is smiling. In the background, two pug dogs are visible, one of which is looking towards the camera.

# Miss Halkic

I came to Our Lady's as a pupil where I studied for my GCSE's and A-levels before beginning my journey through to University at Edge Hill and Bath Spa, where I trained to become a secondary school teacher.

I have been teaching Dance and Performing Arts at OLCC for 8 years now, alongside this I also teach PE and PSHE and I LOVE my job.

Highlights of my job and teaching Performing Arts is directing the amazing dance shows that take place every year for the pupils at OLCC in collaboration with our local primary schools, whilst providing leadership roles for KS4 and KS5 pupils to be dance leaders and ambassadors for each show.

In Performing Arts lessons I love seeing pupils confidence levels increase as they plan, create, analyse and perform in assessment routines. Seeing the end result after so much time, effort and hard work they have put into planning a final performance piece makes me so very proud of each and every pupil and I'm always astounded by the creativity of the pupils I teach.

Outside of teaching I am kept busy with my 2 pugs Eddie and Ella and my 3 year old daughter – they keep me on my toes and I love that my daughter has a passion for dancing and performing as much as I did in my younger years!!



# Mrs Bennett



Having studied Drama & Theatre Studies at the University of Chester, I then became a teacher of Drama at Our Lady's, 16 years ago (where does the time go!!) A year later, I secured the position of Subject Leader of Drama and have been teaching this subject, which I am so passionate about, ever since.

In 2011, I completed by Masters degree in education which allowed me to further my understanding of the Arts and the huge variety of opportunities available in the creative sector. My dissertation was based on some earlier work that I undertook working with inmates in a female prison and focused on analysing human behaviour – an element of the Performing Arts that people don't always consider when taking this subject, I found this work fascinating and was so privileged to extend my studies into projects at school where I looked at the leadership skills that could be complemented by taking Performing Arts as a further education subject.

Although I love my job, I also have a very busy life with two young children at home and two beautiful King Charles Spaniels that keep me occupied!

Over the las few years, I have also trained to become a Clinical Hypnotherapist and I am now self employed in this role for two days a week. If anything, this complements my work as a Performing Arts /Drama teacher even more in that I am now more experienced in dealing with people and the issues they come to see me with. This knowledge and understanding of human behaviour in essential when analysing performance and work on stage.

In addition to all of the above, my practical experience of Theatre is enhanced each year when I am involved as Producer of our whole school show. This is an opportunity for every student at Our Lady's to get involved in a musical piece.



# Mrs Hannaford

I was born into a family of musicians and my Grandma started teaching me the piano when I was four – I don't think I listened much at that age! By the time I took my GCSEs and A levels in Wigan, I was playing clarinet and saxophone to a good standard. I started singing when I left sixth form.

I studied music at the University of Liverpool during which time singing continued to be more important to me and I eventually sang rather than played in my final year.

On finishing my degree, I went to Edge Hill University to study for a PGCE in Secondary music. I got my first job as head of music at All Hallows RC High School in Salford, staying there for 13 years. Since then, I have worked as a singing and piano teacher for Lancashire music service. I still sing in my free time, in a group at Church and on my own with an iPad and speaker (often driving the neighbours mad!)

I love musical theatre – it's the most fun part of singing – and it's lovely when I can help students find amazing singing voices they didn't know they had.



What can I expect on  
the course?



◆ This two year course is aimed at students with a passion for Acting, Singing or Dance. It provides an opportunity to develop the necessary skill required for performing in the theatre.

◆ The programme focuses upon a broad range of musical theatre, acting and dance skills, delivered through workshop and studio teaching. Learning to work as a member of a company in rehearsal and performance of a variety of shows is an important part of the programme.

◆ Over the two years, you will have to build up a body of assessed practical work together with background research, written projects and evaluations. You will also develop your skills by participating in acting, dancing, singing and theory classes.

◆ As well as being taught directly by specialist staff, students will be expected to participate in visits and workshops led by professional practitioners, and to undertake private study and work independently.



# Assessments



Assessment is by coursework portfolio and external assessment with 4 units of study undertaken, 2 of which are externally assessed.



The 4 units will comprise a mixture of Dance, Drama and Music.



Investigating Practitioners' Work (external assessment)

- Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance
- Group Performance Workshop (external assessment)
- Musical Theatre Techniques



These assignments will involve research tasks, presentations, written assignments, evaluations of performances in addition to practical lessons, rehearsals and final performances.





What our students say...



# Bethany Elsworth

"I absolutely loved studying Performing Arts, we were given many opportunities to explore the three disciplines and perform our work throughout the course. This course has allowed me to begin studying Performing Arts at Leeds Beckett University as well as being my course rep! I enjoyed every aspect of this course and I would recommend it to anyone!

Outside of this, I embraced multiple opportunities outside the classroom from choreography and performance for the festivals and dance shows to performances and public speaking at advent services alongside being Head Girl and Sports Captain. There is something for everyone in Performing Arts and OLCC is a safe space to improve and explore the best version of yourself!"





# Anna Thompson

"Studying Performing Arts in Sixth Form has allowed my self confidence to increase. I have always loved performing before joining Sixth Form but after doing PA I have started doing more performance related stuff outside of school. I was doing Hairspray outside of school and I also auditioned for my first show at school for Annie.

I will continue to perform outside of school and into my adult life. My confidence has improve so much and I am so grateful for the opportunity that PA has given me! I recommend this course to anyone who has an interest in it or wants to improve on their confidence skills or just wants to have a fun experience xx"

# Caitlin Kelly

"Studying Performing Arts was the highlight of my Sixth Form experience! I have always loved performing so this course allowed me to not only enjoy this even more, but also improve my confidence skills.

All lessons are designed to allow us to learn new skills and improve/adapt the ones we already have. They are planned specifically to allow us to work both independently and as a group, where we can receive guidance from teachers if needed. This makes each lesson exciting and fun as they are all different.

For the 7 years I have been at Our Lady's I have also taken part and choreographed routines for the annual dance shows and summer productions. Doing this has given me something exciting to take part in and another opportunity to use and improve all of the skills I have learnt in the performing arts lessons.

I am currently taking a gap year alongside completing some voluntary work with Miss Halkic in the Dance department before I go to university to study Primary School Teaching where I will hopefully have the opportunity to get involved in clubs and extra activities where I can use my performing skills and possibly help others improve theirs. I would recommend this course to anyone who loves to perform or even just wants an exciting and uplifting subject to take part in!"







# Klaudia Luzszak

"Studying Performing Arts has allowed me to develop and enhance many production and performance skills in more depth in KS3 and learn many new ones compared to KS3/4. I have always loved performing and I have taken part and choreographed for dance shows and summer productions at OLCC. Performing Arts has taught me number of key skills that can be transferred into different aspects of study. I would recommend this course to anyone who loves the aspect of performing, even if you are not planning on doing Performing Arts in the future, it will teach you life long skills that you can transfer into different fields of work and study, just as I have!"

# Kamila Pikulska

"Studying Performing Arts has been so much fun over the last 2 years as it has allowed me to be much more confident in many different areas of Performing Arts.

Putting all the assignments together has been so exciting and seeing the outcomes was extremely rewarding. Taking Performing Arts as a lesson I think has helped me massively in activities like the dance and summer shows, which now I absolutely love.

This is just an overall amazing course to be on with the most supportive teachers who will do nothing but go above and beyond to help you with practical and written work. They are there at the end of an email with amazing, constructive advice and guidance to help you succeed and I would strongly recommend Performing Arts in Sixth Form!

Even if you don't think it is for you I would 100% encourage you to give it a go and you will LOVE the hands on, practical subject!"





# Olivia Mangan

Left Our Lady's in 2017 after studying both Drama & Theatre Studies and Performing Arts with us.

She is now in her final year of studying 'International Relations' at the University of Birmingham (after her year abroad in the USA got interrupted by the pandemic!)





# Bekka Walmsley

Left Our Lady's in 2015.

Bekka has returned numerous times to help with the choreography for the whole school show.

She is currently teaching Dance to primary school children and is waiting to start her PGCE in September 2021.





# Demi Lemke

Coming from The Netherlands, Demi was originally studying in England for one year but enjoyed her time with us so much that she decided to stay on for the full two years at sixth form.

*“After my A Levels, I went on to study Performing Arts at Leeds Beckett and was part of the competitive Cheerleading team as well as the Music Society at the university. In the summer of 2019 I had the opportunity to volunteer in Greece as part of a University programme and gave singing, dancing and acting workshops. I graduated last summer with a 2:1 and hope to start my Masters in Professional Language and Intercultural Studies (with French) next year at the University of Leeds. After that I want to work in Journalism, or for an international organisation that focuses on helping people in developing countries.”*



## Progression / Career Opportunities

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate is valued by employers and universities alike and is equivalent to one A Level. The course is good preparation for further study of acting, dancing or singing and other related areas of the performing arts at Drama School or University. This qualification is an asset for any aspect of work in the Performing Arts industry

In addition, this course will also complement many other A Levels and BTEC courses. Presentational skills, communication skills and the ability to successfully work as part of a team are fundamental to this course and are all desirable attributes to future employers.

Students embarking on this course will be expected to demonstrate a high level of self discipline and rehearsal/performance work outside of lesson time will be compulsory.

