



# The Minster School

# PERFORMING ARTS



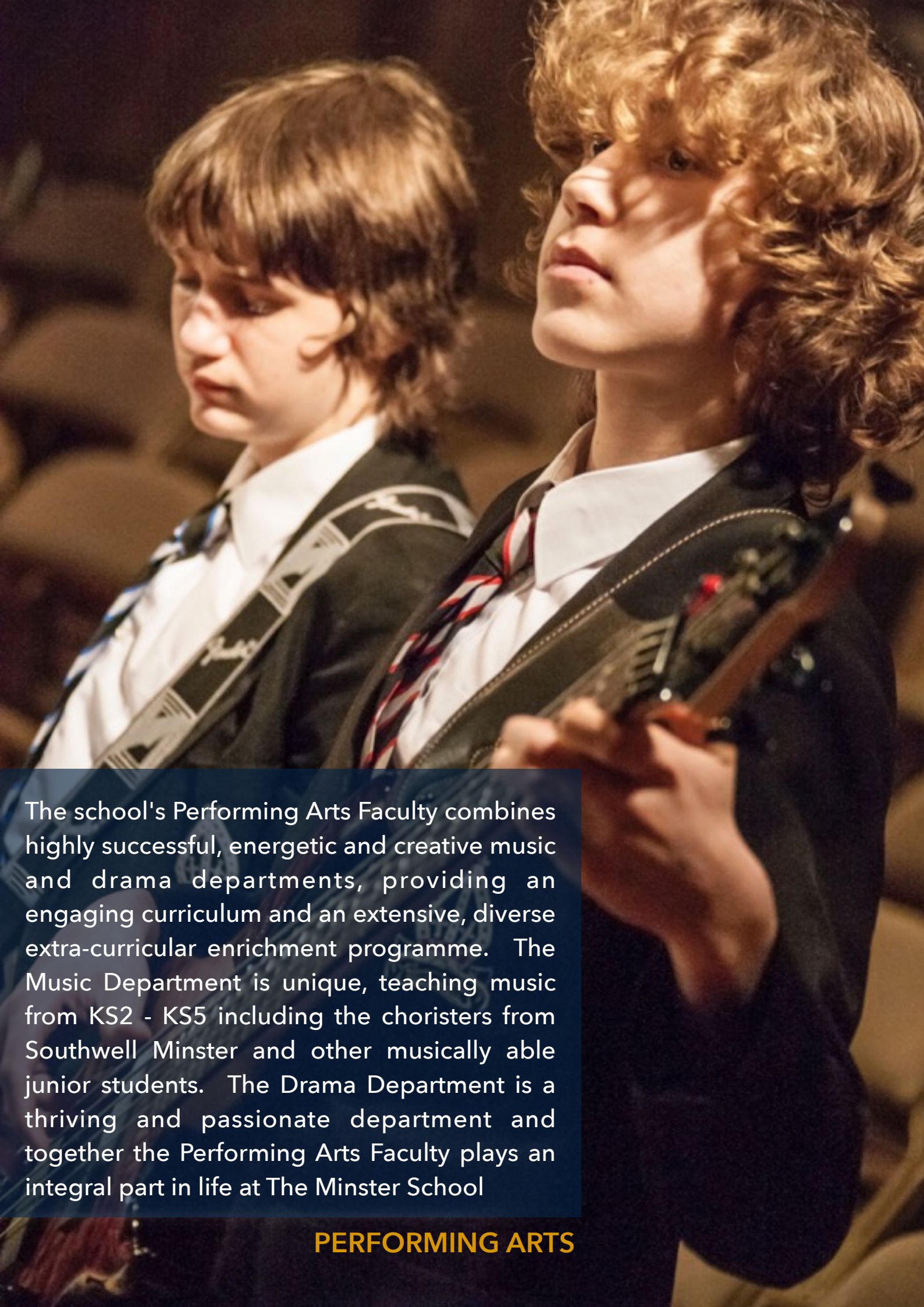
The Minster School  
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The Minster School is an outstanding Church of England Aided Comprehensive School with a strong tradition of music and a long-standing connection with Southwell Minster. The school is committed to offering an engaging, inclusive and high quality music and drama curriculum to students as part of its encouragement of culture and Arts.







The school's Performing Arts Faculty combines highly successful, energetic and creative music and drama departments, providing an engaging curriculum and an extensive, diverse extra-curricular enrichment programme. The Music Department is unique, teaching music from KS2 - KS5 including the choristers from Southwell Minster and other musically able junior students. The Drama Department is a thriving and passionate department and together the Performing Arts Faculty plays an integral part in life at The Minster School

## **PERFORMING ARTS**





THE TEAM

We are looking to appoint an excellent specialist and practitioner who is passionate about their subject and who will further enhance our dedicated team, supporting students to maximise their academic and extra-curricular potential and achievements.

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## PERFORMANCES

The Performing Arts Faculty presents large-scale school productions alongside Drama productions including the National Theatre Connections and Shakespeare in Schools and numerous concerts. We have close links with the Minster Music Foundation and our busy performance calendar sees the department collaborating with national, county-wide and local organisations as well as our family of feeder schools.





The Performing Arts Faculty enjoys excellent facilities within the light and spacious school buildings. The Drama Department has a dedicated theatre with tiered seating, lighting rig and sound desk along with two large studio spaces. The Music Department has large classrooms with purpose-built break-out spaces; a large number of instrumental and vocal teaching spaces; practice rooms; recording studio; recital room; and Mac suite running Sibelius, Logic Pro X, Pro Tools 8 and Reason.

The background of the page features a photograph of several young women in school uniforms. They are shown from the chest up, looking in various directions, some towards the camera and others to the side. The lighting is warm and indoor, suggesting a classroom or rehearsal space. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark blue band across the middle of the image.

## TEACHING & LEARNING

The Performing Arts Faculty is committed to developing new and innovative ways of teaching. We use a wide variety of teaching and learning methods to support students' learning. We aim to provide students with a balance of practical and theoretical approaches to music and drama as is appropriate for their key stage. Using a range of teaching styles, cooperative learning, technology, workshops and independent learning and assessment, we encourage students to play an active part in the learning. We enjoy a vast variety of cross-curricular and extra-curricular projects to support classroom work.



Following an engaging, broad and balanced KS3 Music curriculum, we offer Music GCSE (Edexcel) and BTEC Music Technology at KS4, with excellent uptake in both subjects. Many students continue to study to study A Level Music and Music Technology which boast cohorts well above the national average. These courses attract many external students who are drawn by the school's reputation for its musical education, facilities and academic success. Many of our students continue to study Music, Music Technology and Performing Arts courses beyond A level, with recent alumni studying at conservatoires across the world, excellent universities and vocational establishments.





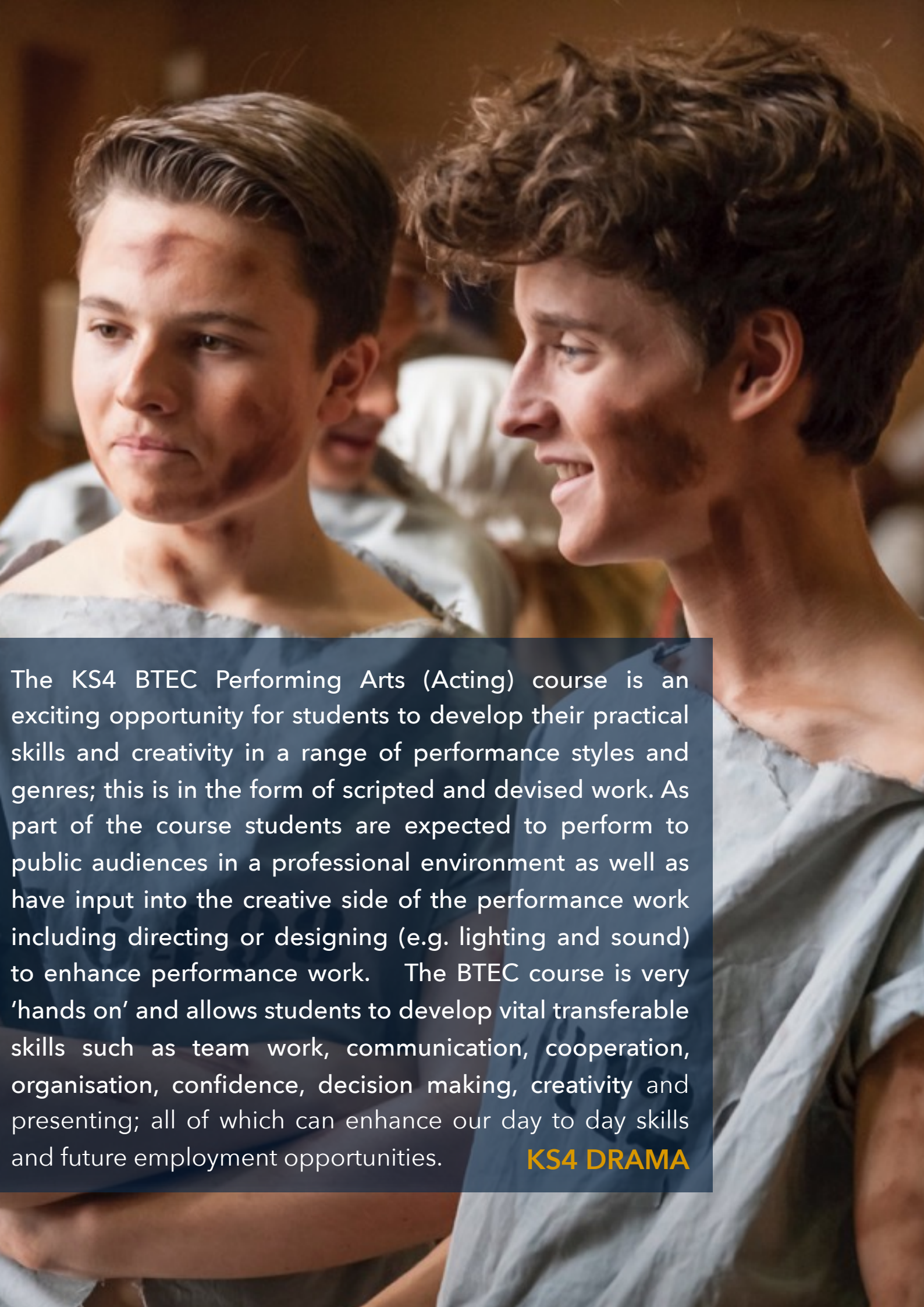


## KS4 MUSIC & MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

GCSE Music (Edexcel) is an excellent opportunity for students to develop themselves as well-rounded musicians. Comprising of Performance, Composition and Listening & Appraising, the course encompasses a range of musical styles, from Western Classical music, World music and Jazz to Popular music, Musical Theatre and Film music. Students are immersed in a balance of practical and theoretical lessons to build up the musical skills and knowledge to explore, perform analyse and compose new music.

BTEC Music Technology (Music) is aimed at those students who want to develop their practical skills using music technology. Developing a greater understanding of the music industry and becoming familiar with Logic Pro X are the two central aspects of the course which is a very practical qualification



A photograph of two young men in a rehearsal setting. The man on the left has a serious expression, while the man on the right is smiling. They are both wearing light blue, off-the-shoulder tops. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in similar attire.

The KS4 BTEC Performing Arts (Acting) course is an exciting opportunity for students to develop their practical skills and creativity in a range of performance styles and genres; this is in the form of scripted and devised work. As part of the course students are expected to perform to public audiences in a professional environment as well as have input into the creative side of the performance work including directing or designing (e.g. lighting and sound) to enhance performance work. The BTEC course is very 'hands on' and allows students to develop vital transferable skills such as team work, communication, cooperation, organisation, confidence, decision making, creativity and presenting; all of which can enhance our day to day skills and future employment opportunities.

**KS4 DRAMA**



A Level Music (Edexcel) is an enjoyable and challenging course developing students' ability to perform accurately and musically; to learn the technical aspects of harmony and composition and apply these in new and interesting ways; and to develop the musical language and analytical skill-set to study a broad range of musical styles. The course is very popular amongst students who wish to pursue further education in music as well as those who have a keen interest in the subject.

## A LEVEL MUSIC



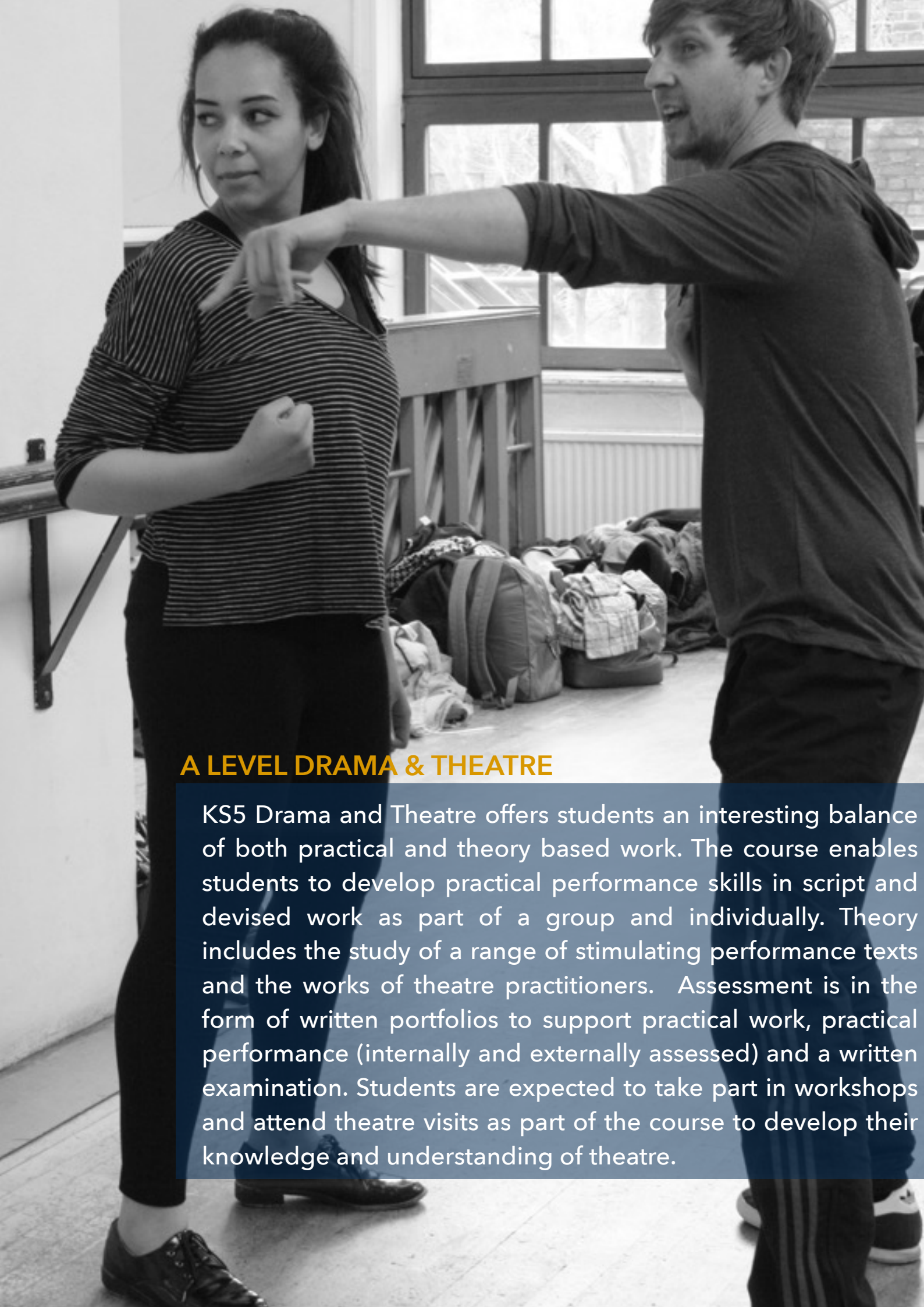




A Level Music Technology focuses on the technical aspects of music technology including recording, technology-based composition and production techniques. Students work in the recording studio and with Logic Pro X to explore sound synthesis, editing, recording and production techniques and more. This is a practical course well designed for further study.

**A LEVEL MUSIC TECHNOLOGY**





## A LEVEL DRAMA & THEATRE

KS5 Drama and Theatre offers students an interesting balance of both practical and theory based work. The course enables students to develop practical performance skills in script and devised work as part of a group and individually. Theory includes the study of a range of stimulating performance texts and the works of theatre practitioners. Assessment is in the form of written portfolios to support practical work, practical performance (internally and externally assessed) and a written examination. Students are expected to take part in workshops and attend theatre visits as part of the course to develop their knowledge and understanding of theatre.





KS5 Performing Arts (Acting) A practical and theoretical approach to the world of Performing Arts. This vocational course further develops transferable skills and expects students to understand and demonstrate the role of the performer in a wider, professional context. Students work practically in groups and individually to develop performance skills in a range of styles that are showcased to public audiences. The course requires students to research, present, keep a detailed written portfolio and write essays on theoretical aspects of theatre and the work of practitioners.

**KS5 BTEC PERFORMING ARTS**





## MINSTER JUNIOR SCHOOL

Our KS2 students in the Junior School receive up to 7 hours of music teaching per week, studying music theory, musical appreciation, composition, performance, choir, orchestra and chamber music across the year. Music is part of daily life for our Junior students who attend the school due to an interest and aptitude for music.





The Music Department is committed to providing students with memorable musical experiences. We currently run the following extra-curricular activities on a weekly basis:

- Orchestra
- Senior & Intermediate String Ensembles
- Jazz Band
- Concert Band
- Full Choir
- Chamber Choir & Junior Chamber Choir
- Brass Ensemble & Advanced Brass Ensemble
- Flute Choir & Double Reed Ensemble
- Harp Ensemble
- Ceilidh Band
- Sound Sessions (hub for singer-songwriters and popular musicians)



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR MUSIC

Our annual programme of concerts and events include

- Easter & Christmas Concerts held at Southwell Minster
- Autumn and Summer Concerts held at The Minster School
- Large-scale Performing Arts productions (2015 - Les Mierables; 2016 - Billy Elliot)
- Musical Theatre showcases
- Unplugged Concert for popular musicians
- Recital Evenings
- Community performances & music festivals
- Concert trips and music tours







The Drama Department is committed to enhancing student's experiences of Drama outside of the classroom. Students are therefore able to participate in annual productions, theatre visits, workshops and drama clubs to continue to thrive, develop, achieve and enjoy!

National Theatre Connections and the Shakespeare Schools' Festival are exciting annual national events that provide students with opportunities to develop skills, work with new people, perform to public audiences and work in professional environments.

Each year we combine as a faculty to produce a whole school production too!

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR DRAMA**



We endeavour to provide an enriched and varied assortment of opportunities for Performing Arts students. This includes workshops with established theatre groups such as Frantic Assembly as well as industry professionals such as Dan Jackson (Musical Director for Wicked) and Phil Bateman (the original Billy Elliot Musical Director). In addition we enjoy professional partnerships and involvement, recently including National Theatre Connections, Southwell Music Festival, Southwell Folk Festival, Nottinghamshire Police Band and recordings for BBC radio.

**ENRICHMENT**







Miss Hannah Wallis - Director of Music

## PERFORMING ARTS STAFF

Mrs Amy Spinks - Head of Drama

Ms Marie-Helene Bilodeau - Teacher of Music & Music Technology

Mrs Andrea Chapman - Teacher of Music & Music SLE

Mr Mikey Gibson - Performing Arts Technician & Instrumental Studies Coordinator

Mrs Natasha Smith - Teacher of Music & Music Technology

Ms Lorna Stolworthy - Teacher of Drama

Mrs Alison Whiles - Assistant Director of Music

Performing Arts Administrator (new role from September 2017)

*In addition to the above posts, we have a team of 16 visiting instrumental and vocal tutors each spending between 1-3 days each week in school.*





Please contact us for any further information  
or to visit the Music or Drama Departments.  
*Visit us on Facebook - The Minster School Music  
Department*