



Performing Arts Faculty

How can I get involved in the Performing Arts in the 6th Form?

The Performing Arts lies at the heart of the school's ethos and all students, regardless of which subjects they study at A Level, are encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities. In the arts these include:

- **Dance** - Marylebone Dance Company, performing in Exam pieces, 6th Form Musical
- **Drama**- 6th Form Musical, Drama School Audition Club, Whole School Play
- **Music**- Chapel Choir (audition), Chamber Choir, Jazz Band, String Concertante, Brass Collective, Symphony Orchestra, Tech Club

There are many collaborative projects for the Performing Arts. These have included: Hairspray, Cabaret, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Grimm's Tales, West Side Story, Alice in Wonderland, Oliver!, All That Jazz, Grease, Rocky Horror Show, Chicago; the Annual Dance Show and Dance Exam Showcase; Annual Jazz Concert, Marylebone Jam; Shakespeare plays such as Macbeth, As You Like It, The Tempest; Spring and Summer Concerts, Festival of Carols and 6th Form Recitals at Wigmore Hall, as well as an annual Drama performance at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

What does it mean to be a 6th Form Performing Arts Scholar?

Should you be successful in the aptitude test for a Performing Arts Scholarship place, there are many opportunities for you to get involved in a variety of ways. These opportunities are completely tailored to each individual student's needs and interests, and we aim to nurture students, allowing them to develop what they are good at, and what they enjoy.

Scholars are offered the opportunity to lead by example and develop and inspire our extra-curricular groups. Some scholars may wish to help organise parts of a performance, such as: contribute to choreography and lead rehearsals, become the producer for the 6th Form Musical, lead assemblies, create a band, compose music for events, and more. Scholars are expected to help with Performing Arts events and whole school events and be an ambassador for the arts in lessons and extra-curricular activities.



"Performing a Music Tech sound score live on stage during the whole school production, using a broken piano was such a cool and unusual experience". Year 12 Music Tech Scholar



How to become a Performing Arts Scholar

As a specialist Performing Arts school St Marylebone offers Performing Arts Scholarships to 6th Form students. We are looking for people who are passionate about the Arts, have a high level of aptitude in their chosen Performing Art, enjoy performing confidently and love being an ambassador for the Arts.

If that describes you and you are intending to study a Performing Arts subject at A Level then you should apply. Performing Arts Scholarships are available in Dance, Drama, Music and Music Technology and successful candidates benefit from a scholarship package which will include:

- Access to visiting instrumental teachers (fees apply)
- Automatic place in the Marylebone Dance Company (Dance Scholars only)
- Position of Performing Arts Ambassador for the school
- Selected workshops and master classes
- Regular performance opportunities

If you are talented in Dance, Drama, Music or Music Technology and you are applying to study that subject at A level then you are eligible to apply to become a Performing Arts scholar. Please note, however, that you can only apply to be a scholar in one Performing Arts subject, regardless of how many Performing Arts subjects you are applying to study.

Internal candidates should also note that if you already hold a scholarship this does not automatically carry over into Year 12 and you must reapply. You can still apply to take an A level in Dance, Drama, Music or Music Technology without applying to be a Performing Arts Scholar. The scholarship scheme is an additional option for students.

How do I apply?

Complete the Scholarship section on your online application. You will then be invited by the relevant Performing Arts department for an aptitude test and interview. You will need to demonstrate your aptitude, enthusiasm and passion for your chosen art form through a pre-prepared performance piece of your own choice. Further details about the aptitude test procedure will be sent to you with your aptitude test invitation.

“Performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival was amazing! It was so cool to be working alongside professional companies, and receiving a brilliant review for our own work.” Year 12 Drama Scholar

“Thanks to the ongoing support I receive during the Drama School Audition Club I felt well prepared for my auditions, and I am so pleased to be going to the Drama School of my choice.” Year 13 Drama Scholar

“I really like that, as a Music Scholar, I have so many opportunities to perform at lots of different music events, including the prestigious Wigmore Hall.” A Level Music student



Sixth Form Performing Arts Aptitude tests

Deadline: External applicants- 11th January, Internal applicants- 14th December

PLEASE NOTE: The aptitude test process will start as soon as you enter the premises and includes your conduct throughout.

Music and Choral Scholarship application:

The test will consist of:

1. Performing one unaccompanied piece, 2-3 minutes in length, that will highlight your skills as a solo performer. Students will perform in front of the other members of their group. Your solo performance will be marked out of 20 using the following criteria:

- Pitch accuracy
- Rhythmic accuracy
- Phrasing, articulation and dynamic contrast
- Interpretation and Communication.

2. Completing a short aural test (equivalent to Grade 6 ABRSM)

3. Completing a short group composition/arranging task based on a given musical extract and using the forces available in your group.

4. Discussing your past musical achievements and performance experience.

"The masterclass with English National Opera really challenged me as a performer, and was so useful in the run-up to my recital." A Level Music student

Music Technology Scholarship application:

The test will last approximately 20 minutes, and students will be tested individually.

The test will consist of:

1. Presenting a piece of your music technology work.

- Bring a piece of your work about 2-3 minutes long with you, on a CD or memory stick as an MP3 or WAV file.
- Talk about how you created your work, the use of technology in it, where your inspiration comes from and how you hope to use your music technology in the future.

2. Perform an unaccompanied piece of music on one instrument of your choice, 2-3 minutes in length.

"Being commissioned to compose a sound score for Marylebone Dance Company gave me the opportunity to gain industry style work experience." Music Tech student



Dance Scholarship application:

The test will consist of:

1. A short technical class to warm up.
2. A short dance phrase to be learnt as a class.
3. A performance of a solo dance (approximately 1 minute long) which you have choreographed and prepared. The dance can be in any style and should communicate a clear 'dance idea'. It needs to be performed in silence, no music.
4. You will need to hand in a typed programme note (max 150 words) explaining what you wanted to communicate to the audience in your solo dance.

"Being asked to choreograph for Dance Company was daunting, but also exciting! I was really pleased that my piece was used to open the annual Dance Show." Dance Scholar

Drama Scholarship application:

The test will consist of:

1. A 10 minute vocal and physical warm-up, followed by creating a short performance using an unseen text in small groups.
2. Performance of a Shakespearean monologue (30 seconds in length) of your choice.
3. Performance of a contemporary monologue, from 1900-present (30 seconds in length). This must be written by a professional, published playwright and be contained within a book which has an ISBN number.
 - Each monologue should last **no longer than 30 seconds**. You may take any part of a longer monologue.
 - You need to hand in a typed copy of each monologue.
 - You need to provide a typed, written explanation (maximum half a side of A4 for each monologue) about what you wanted to communicate to the audience and your overall intention for the monologue, focusing on how you will use voice and movement skills, and what character you are trying to achieve.
4. You will need to write a review of a theatre show (not musical theatre) you have seen which has had an impact on you (500 words).
 - State what it is you saw/where you saw it/when you saw it
 - Focus on a key moment in the performance and analyse and evaluate how all the acting and technical elements combined to create impact on the audience.

"A professional TV director visited the school to talk to A level Drama students, and because of this I was able to secure work experience in the TV industry." Drama Scholar

"Studying Performing Arts at SMS made sense as I knew I would get an excellent academic education, combined with outstanding performance opportunities." A Level Dance and Drama student