

12 September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

I am thrilled that your son/daughter has chosen GCSE Dance as one of his/her options for his/her GCSE programme at The Castle School and I am writing with some important information about the course which I hope will be of some use as your child progresses in Year 10.

GCSE Dance is a two-year programme of study where 60% of work is completed through coursework and the remaining 40% is completed through written examination in Year 11.

Each element of the coursework for GCSE Dance will examine one of three key strands; choreography, performance and appreciation and it is important that your child becomes competent in; performing in front of others, is able to appreciate other professional dance works and the work of their peers and is able to learn and develop important choreographical skills.

Regular attendance throughout the course is essential and after-school and lunch time rehearsals will be expected. All components will demand time out of their timetabled lessons and students will be responsible for booking choreography and rehearsal sessions before, during and after-school. Much of the homework for GCSE Dance is completed through rehearsals and students are expected to commit themselves to out of lesson rehearsals. Flexibility and support in allowing your child to attend early morning and after-school rehearsals is appreciated.

Alongside the uniform ethos and requirements of the school, it is expected that students will wear full dance kit for every practical lesson or rehearsal. Please arrange for your son/daughter to have the following dance kit for the start of term:

**Dance Kit:**

- Black 'Castle' Dance T-Shirt can be purchased from the finance office at school
- A long black or white top may be worn underneath if appropriate
- Plain black tracksuit trousers (off the floor, no white stripes)
- **OR** Plain black cut off trousers (loose, no ties or zips)
- **OR** plain black leggings – long or short
- Bare feet
- Hair well groomed and tied back

The dress code for GCSE Dance must be strictly adhered to. The dance kit listed above is expected to generate an ethos for work and expressly forbids the wearing of:

- Trousers that are too long and may cause tripping
- Trousers with flares
- Low rise trousers
- Socks and shoes (including trainers). A medical note must be given if feet need to be covered.
- Low cut tops
- Jewellery

Due to the physical demands of the new specification I would also recommend that students purchase a pair of soft dance kneepads. These will be available from student reception on completion of the slip at the bottom of this letter. Please pay either via the school's online payment system, by cash/cheque (made payable to The Castle School) or by credit/debit card (either in person or over the phone). It would also be useful if students could purchase an A4 ringbinder, coloured A4 folder dividers and A4 plastic wallets ready for theory lessons. If this isn't possible, I do have a limited number of spares.

There will be numerous opportunities for students to attend trips to both local and national theatres to watch professional dance companies and it is recommended that students attend as many of these trips as possible in order to feed their current practice, aid their appreciation skills and enhance ideas for choreography. Attending extra-curricular dance classes is beneficial and will play a huge part in students' success within GCSE Dance.

I do hope that your son/daughter will enjoy GCSE Dance and if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at school. I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Yours sincerely

Miss J Stone  
**Head of Dance**

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**Please return completed slips to Finance Office – (Dance knee pads)**

I would like/would not like \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name) of

Form \_\_\_\_\_ to receive a pair of dance kneepads at £8.00 in size **S/M/L** (please circle).

I enclose cash/cheque for ..... (made payable to The Castle School)/I have paid online, or by credit/debit card\*. (\*Please delete as applicable).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_