

THE ARTS - DANCE

WHY STUDY DANCE?

Dance is a human activity of ancient tradition and an evolving form of expression. Different cultures throughout history have refined and manipulated movement to communicate meaning through the symbol systems of dance. As an aesthetic means of ordering movement into an expressive code, dance involves structuring gesture and motion to capture and convey ideas, images and feelings, and uses the human body as the instrument of communication. Dance fulfils various functions in society. In this syllabus, the major focus is on dance as art while also promoting an understanding of the social and ritual functions.



COURSE AIMS:

The study of Dance is enriched by experiences in Choreography, Performance and Appreciation:

- Through the creative process of **Choreography**, students learn how patterns of movement are combined and structured in space with dynamics to create meaning, to express personal or social ideas and to tell stories. The skills of communication, improvisation, personal problem-solving, group decision-making, and planning and organising activities are fostered in this process.
- In **Performance**, unique technical and expressive demands of dance are developed. Students develop their personal expressive power to convey meaning through dance to an audience. They are rewarded by a sense of achievement and satisfaction through the physical expression of a creative idea. Students can build self-confidence and physical capabilities through experiencing a variety of dance techniques.
- **Appreciation** of dance involves understanding how and why dance is made, the techniques used in its design and the stylistic elements that place it in a particular context. The students learn to value their own and others' aesthetic responses to dance.



COURSE ORGANISATION:

The study of Dance in Years 9 and 10 is a semester elective organised:

<p>YEAR A SEMESTER 1: DA598 BRING IT ON! DA591 Dance Excellence: To select this unit students must have a minimum of 5 years dance experience</p>	<p>YEAR A SEMESTER 2: DA593 HOLLYWOOD MOVES DA592 Dance Excellence: To select this unit students must have a minimum of 5 years dance experience</p>
<p>YEAR B SEMESTER 1: DA595 All That Jazz DA591 Dance Excellence: To select this unit students must have a minimum of 5 years dance experience</p>	<p>YEAR B SEMESTER 2: DA597 Heart Moves DA592 Dance Excellence: To select this unit students must have a minimum of 5 years dance experience</p>

DA591/DA592 Dance Excellence:

To select this unit students must have a minimum of 5 years dance experience



The Dance Excellence unit aims to provide students with identified Dance talent an opportunity to develop their dance performance and expose them to various facets of Dance. Topics of exploration include fitness and nutrition for performance, technical and performance skills covering a wide range of styles and forms. Students will further develop choreographic and creating skills and the unit provide a realistic opportunity for students to realise potential through the development of Dance technique.

DA593 Hollywood Moves



This unit provides the students the opportunity to recreate their favourite dance moments from movies, TV shows and video clips. Students will perform dance scenes from Glee, So You Think You Can Dance, Step Up, Honey, and Burlesque, Grease, Footloose, Michael Jackson's Thriller and many more. Popular dance crazes from the past such as the Charleston, the mashed potato, disco, hip hop and Jive will be taught and researched and as well as cultural dances and their significance to their country of origin. This unit takes you around the

world as you not only discover you can be a movie star in a dance movie but also view the importance of dance in many cultures.

DA595 All That Jazz

This unit explores dance styles in Musical Theatre. Students will perform routines from Chicago, Cats, Singin' in the Rain and Oklahoma. They develop the skills to create and perform their own choreography and choices in musicals and dance styles. Students will take on the creative roles of choreographer, performer, actor and director. The dance styles of jazz, cabaret, tap and ballet will be featured in this unit.



DA597 Heart Moves



Students learn the art of choreographing. Dance Composition will be taught throughout this unit with learning experiences in solo, duet and group dance choreography activities. The dance elements of space, time, dynamics and relationships will also be explored. Students will choreograph movement pieces inspired by their favourite songs and artists, lyrics, paintings, poetry and nature. They study the choreographers who paved the way in contemporary dance and analyse some of their work.

This unit also explores storytelling through dance with a focus on personal and group choreography and interpretation through the use of the body. Students use movement to express feeling.

DA598 Bring It On!

Students will explore the skill of cheerleading, the ever increasing hobby that has taken Australia by storm! A trained professional will guide students through the skills needed to become a cheerleader. Motion and hip hop choreography and stunts ranging from basic thigh stands to elevators and pyramids will be taught throughout the professional training. You will graduate as a cheerleader with a winning whole class routine. Students will then create their own small group routines using their own choreography and soundtrack. Teamwork, focus, enthusiasm and safe dance practice is needed for this unit.



Assessment



Assessment will be centred upon the three strands, Choreography, Appreciation and Performance:

Each unit will have a choreographic piece of assessment where they will either choreograph a routine by exploring, selecting and manipulating dance components and skills as well as seeing live and videoed performances or from learning a given routine. Students perform for the class and will be recorded as they employ the technical and expressive skills of dance to communicate an interpretation of intent. Students will build their knowledge and understanding of dance in its contexts and learn the skills of analysis, interpretation, evaluation and research necessary for appreciation through critiquing theirs and others' dance works.