

The Level 3 BTEC Dance course at Varndean College will challenge you, both physically and mentally, and push you to become a “thinking” dancer whilst developing strong creative and technical dance skills. This course promotes both professionalism and artistry and is excellent preparation for those wishing to study and train in dance at higher level. At the same time it is also accessible to anyone with a genuine interest and passion for dance.

The course is an exciting and practical two-year programme of study that is assessed via practical internal and external assessment, coursework and vocational projects. There will be trips to see a diverse range of performances, as well as the chance to work with visiting dance companies and professional choreographers. Students will have a number of performance opportunities throughout the year, including a large scale performance project performed at Brighton Fringe Festival.

The Level 3 BTEC Dance course at Varndean College is equivalent to one A Level. The course is graded at Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*

Examination Board: Pearson

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BTEC Level 3 Dance



Dance genres are blurring and shifting. Dancers continually explore and discover new ways of moving. They do not have to keep to a fixed technique. Some post-modern ideas about dance include the use of improvisation, combining styles, speech, film and video in dances, as well as using different kinds of performance spaces to show work. This is actively and enthusiastically encouraged at Varndean.

“Dance at Varndean offers performance opportunities in professional theatres so that you gain experience of being on the stage. The course gives you a really good insight into the world of the professional dancer. I thoroughly recommend the course to anyone with an interest in dance.”

“The dance course at Varndean is very creative and has really helped to improve my choreography as well as my technique. It has given me a sound grounding in contemporary dance. I am planning to study dance in London next year and hopefully make it my career.”

“Studying dance at Varndean is not only fun, but it allows for huge improvement in fitness, flexibility and technique. Over the two year course you make many close friendships. I would urge anyone with an interest in dance to enrol on the course. It’s a decision I’ve never regretted for a moment!”

The Dance course at Varndean is amazing. It has enabled me to really expand my movement vocabulary and has introduced me to so many interesting approaches to Choreography and Performance. I am starting full time dance training next year and everything I have learnt on this course is going to really help me in the future.”

“I have really enjoyed this course. The technique classes have given me a much better grounding in dance. The lessons are fun because you get to know the other students on the course really well.”

“The second year of the course gives you an amazing opportunity to create your own dance company. It’s very exciting as the entire class work together on creating work, designing costume and working on marketing and publicity.”



Where does it lead?

The course provides an excellent grounding for students wishing to train as professional dancers at conservatoires or other HE providers. Likewise, it is an excellent choice for students wishing to progress in other performance related fields. Students will be fully supported in their application and audition preparation. Previous students have gone on to study Dance at: Laban, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, The Place, Chichester University, Falmouth University & Roehampton to name but a few. Many alumni are working professionally as performers and/or teachers and choreographers. Likewise, if you simply have a passion for the study of Dance, this course provides training in creativity; teamwork; leadership skills; problem-solving; independence; how to work effectively with external clients; funding & performance arts marketing.

What to expect

You will have 6 hours of dance per week split into 3 sessions.

You will: study a range of work by ground-breaking choreographers; explore choreography and the creative process; take part in technique classes to develop contemporary technique; explore the Hip Hop genre with a professional choreographer; develop improvisation skills; learn about funding and marketing (including social media); form a working dance company and create a full length piece of work to be performed in a professional theatre space as part of Brighton Fringe Festival.

Each unit of work is broken into assignment tasks. These may be presentations of physical skills, performance, written documents or blogs.

Students also learn about backstage organisation & stage management through two projects at Brighton Dome: Let’s Dance (the UK’s largest youth dance festival).

You will also take part in community dance activities and learning how to lead workshops.

