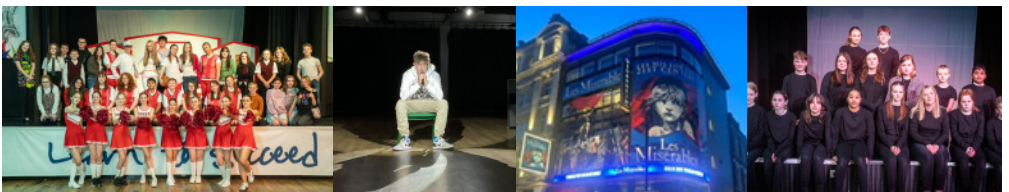




Careers in...

Performing Arts

Advice for Year 10 & Year 11 Pupils



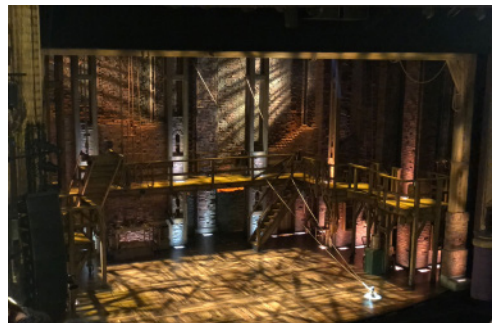
Why Performing Arts?

Performing Arts is a vibrant and dynamic field that encompasses various forms of artistic expression, including acting, dance, and music. It offers a unique opportunity to develop creativity, confidence, and communication skills. Engaging in Performing Arts can lead to a fulfilling career, allowing you to entertain, inspire, and connect with audiences.

1. Explore Career Paths in Performing Arts

Performing Arts offers a wide range of career opportunities both onstage and behind the scenes. Some potential career paths include:

- **Acting:** Actor/Actress, Voice Actor, Drama Teacher
- **Music:** Musician, Composer, Music Teacher
- **Dance:** Dancer, Choreographer, Dance Instructor
- **Behind the Scenes:** Director, Producer, Stage Manager, Lighting Designer, Sound Engineer
- **Other Roles:** Arts Administrator, Talent Agent, Public Relations Officer



2. Skills Performing Arts Gives You

Studying Performing Arts equips you with a variety of valuable skills, such as:

- **Creativity:** Developing original ideas and artistic expression.
- **Communication:** Enhancing verbal and non-verbal communication skills.
- **Teamwork:** Collaborating effectively with others in a group setting.
- **Technical Skills:** Gaining proficiency in areas like sound, lighting, and stage management.
- **Confidence:** Building self-assurance through performance and public speaking.

3. Subject Combinations and Education Pathways

At School:

- **GCSEs:** Subjects like Drama, Music, and Dance can provide a strong foundation.
- **A-Levels:** Consider taking Performing Arts, Theatre Studies, Music, or Dance.

Further Education (North West England):

- **Colleges:** Many colleges offer BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Performing Arts, which provide practical experience and theoretical knowledge.
- **Universities:** Institutions like the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) and Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA) offer specialised degree programs.

Professional Development:

- **Workshops and Courses:** Participate in workshops, masterclasses, and short courses to enhance your skills.
 - **Apprenticeships and Internships:** Gain hands-on experience through apprenticeships and internships in the industry.
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4. Performing Arts in the Real World

Performing Arts is not just about performing on stage; it also involves understanding the business side of the industry. This includes marketing, networking, and managing finances. Real-world experience can be gained through community theatre, school productions, and volunteering.

5. What Can You Do Now?

Year 10:

- **Join School Productions:** Participate in school plays, musicals, and talent shows.
- **Take Relevant Subjects:** Choose GCSEs/BTEC in Drama, Music, or Dance.
- **Attend Workshops:** Join local drama clubs or attend workshops to build your skills.

Year 11:

- **Research Further Education:** Look into colleges and universities that offer Performing Arts courses.
 - **Prepare for Auditions:** Start preparing audition pieces for college applications.
 - **Gain Experience:** Volunteer for local theatre groups or community arts projects.
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6. Preparing for Auditions

Preparing for auditions can be a nerve-wracking but exciting process. Here are some tips to help you get ready and give your best performance:

1. Develop a Strong Audition Monologue

Choose a monologue that showcases your strengths and fits the type of role you're auditioning for. Make sure it's well-rehearsed and that you understand the character's motivations and emotions.

2. Master Cold Reading Skills

Cold readings are common in auditions, especially for scripted projects. Practice reading scripts aloud and quickly understanding the material so you can deliver a confident performance.

3. Character Research and Scene Study

Understand your character deeply. Read the entire script if possible, and analyse what your character wants, their obstacles, and their relationships with other characters.

4. Confidence and Presence

Walk into the audition room with confidence. Good posture, eye contact, and a friendly demeanour can make a positive impression. Remember, the casting directors want you to succeed.

5. Rehearse with Feedback

Practice your audition pieces in front of friends, family, or a coach who can provide constructive feedback. This can help you refine your performance and address any weaknesses.

6. Join Audition Preparation Classes

Consider taking classes or workshops focused on audition techniques. These can provide valuable insights and help you hone your skills.

7. Prepare Your Materials

Ensure you have all necessary materials ready, such as your headshot, CV, and any required forms. Bring multiple copies just in case.

8. Dress Appropriately

Wear something that is comfortable and appropriate for the role you're auditioning for. Avoid costumes, but choose attire that suggests the character.

9. Stay Calm and Focused

Auditions can be stressful, but try to stay calm and focused. Take deep breaths, visualise a successful audition, and remind yourself that this is an opportunity to showcase your talent.

10. Be Yourself

Let your personality shine through. Casting directors are looking for authenticity and someone who can bring a unique perspective to the role.

Good luck with your auditions! If you have any more questions or need further advice, feel free to ask.



7. Further Education

Here are some local colleges and universities that offer Performing Arts courses:

Preston College

Offers a range of performing arts courses, including BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts. The college has excellent facilities and provides opportunities for practical experience.

Cardinal Newman College

Provides A-Level courses in Drama and Theatre Studies, as well as BTEC Performing Arts. The college is known for its supportive environment and strong academic results.

Runshaw College

Offers BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts. The college has a strong reputation for its Performing Arts department and provides numerous performance opportunities.

Blackpool & The Fylde College

Provides a variety of Performing Arts courses, including acting, dance, and musical theatre. The college has excellent facilities and industry connections.

Wigan and Leigh College

Offers Performing Arts courses with a focus on practical skills and industry experience. The college provides a supportive learning environment and opportunities for live performances.

Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA)

Offers a range of Performing Arts courses, including acting, dance, and music. LIPA is renowned for its industry connections and practical training.

Manchester School of Theatre (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Provides a variety of performing arts courses, including acting and theatre studies. The school is known for its high-quality training and strong industry links.

University of Salford

Offers a range of Performing Arts courses, including drama, dance, and music. The university has excellent facilities and strong connections with the creative industries.

Edge Hill University (Ormskirk)

Provides Performing Arts courses with a focus on practical experience and industry engagement. The university has a vibrant arts community and excellent facilities.

These institutions offer a range of courses and opportunities to help you develop your skills and pursue a career in the Performing Arts. If you need more specific information about any of these or their courses, feel free to ask!

Useful Resources

- **National Careers Service:**

Offers advice on careers in the arts.

- **UCAS:**

Information on courses and universities.

- **Creative Skillset:**

Provides resources and guidance for careers in the creative industries.

- **Local Theatres and Arts Organisations:**

Many offer workshops, volunteer opportunities, and career advice.

- **Websites:**

National Youth Theatre: www.nyt.org.uk

Arts Council England: www.artscouncil.org.uk

Spotlight: www.spotlight.com

- **Books and Guides:**

"The Ultimate Performing Arts Career Guide"

"Careers in Performing Arts"

- **Professional Organisations:**

Equity

Musicians' Union

Miss Howell, Lead Teacher of Drama
January 2025

