

# Welcome to your BTEC Performing Arts course

Congratulations on choosing the BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate Performing Arts course. The new specification Pearson course offers you the opportunity to explore a wide range of theatre practitioners and styles, as well as practical study of significant historical and contemporary plays. All work is approached from the point of view of the performer.

## Course structure

The content of the course is split into 4 units, three of which are mandatory:

### Unit 1: Investigating Practitioner's Work – 25% of BTEC



This is a research module which culminates in a 3 hour examination. Four weeks before the scheduled examination you will be given a theme and a list of practitioners, two of which you will choose to conduct your research on. You may take notes into the examination and will be expected to answer three questions on the practitioners you have researched.

### Unit 2: Developing Skills for Live Performance – 25% of BTEC

This is a practical module in which you will be given opportunity to develop your performance skills whilst exploring a range of scripts and styles. Using the stylistic influence of a practitioner of your choice you will develop a group performance for examination. The emphasis is very much on your development so you will keep a working notebook to evidence this. You will also complete a presentation on the role of a professional performer.



### Unit 3: Group Performance Workshop – 33% of BTEC



This is a practical module in which you will create your own devised production for performance from a stimulus provided by the examination board. You are assessed as much on how you go about creating the production as on the performance itself. This will be the final assessment of the course.

## **Forth Optional Unit: 17% of BTEC**

Optional units can be undertaken at any point in the course and they can be used in conjunction with each other, or with Unit 2. Only one optional unit will be submitted but you can choose from any of the following:

Unit 18:	Interpreting Classical Text for Performance
Unit 19:	Acting Styles
Unit 20:	Developing the Voice for Performance
Unit 21:	Improvisation
Unit 22:	Movement in Performance

## Induction tasks

In order for you to be prepared for the first few weeks of study I would like you to have completed the following tasks.

### **Task 1 – The role of performer:**

The skill of an actor is never more exposed than when they are on stage alone. I would like you to research and select a monologue of your choosing. The monologue must come from a published play but can be from any era or any style that you like. As part of your research you will need to gain an understanding of the context of the monologue, its stylistic purpose and the potential impact it will have on the audience. You will need to have learnt the text by the first lesson but will be allocated time in the first couple of weeks of the course to develop your performance.

### **Task 2 – Exploration of practitioners:**

Throughout your course you will be expected to continuously research and develop your understanding of theatre and performance. You will also need to learn how to present your research effectively. I would like you chose one of the influential practitioners below to research and prepare a presentation of this research in the first week. The presentation must include both theory and practical exploration so most students would choose to create a PowerPoint presentation followed by a short practical workshop. I like creative and innovative presentations so do not feel like you have to stick to the norm. You may choose from: **Bertolt Brecht, Frantic Assembly, Kneehigh, or Stanislavski** as your practitioner.

I look forward to welcoming you in September.

Jez Turner

Head of Drama

