

DANCE – LINEAR A LEVEL - SUMMER HOMEWORK TASK

Dear Dancer,

Welcome to A Level Dance!

We are delighted that you have chosen to further your knowledge, understanding & technique through this recognised qualification and we look forward to working and dancing with you in September. These tasks aim to give you a taster of what's to come! They will also form the foundations for our class work in the Autumn Term & enhance your learning.

Being a student of dance will involve attending all lessons, completing regular homework tasks, rehearsing and improving your technique; even performing in front of an audience. We wear a specially designed kit not only for practical reasons and for your own safety but for you to be proud of. This can be ordered when you start the course.

We are very passionate about dance and have high expectations of you – we want you to achieve your potential. Your response to these tasks will give us an insight into your determination to succeed, application, work ethic and most importantly your creativity. Please do your best to complete all tasks.

Listed below is your summer homework task. It will be necessary to have completed all tasks and all relevant work should be brought to your first dance lesson in the Autumn Term

1. Purchase a lever arch folder & a pack of 10 dividers.

2. Practical task – COMPONENT 1 – Select one PRACTITIONER from below;

- ***Christopher Bruce or Richard Alton or Matthew Bourne or Akram Khan***

Perform a **solo** based on the movement style of a specified practitioner.

The dance must be between a **minimum** of **two** minutes and must be no longer than **three** minutes.

The dance must allow you to demonstrate understanding and awareness of the following technical principles and stylistic features associated with the chosen practitioner:

- precision and control of physical/technical skills
- spatial elements (personal and stage space)
- dynamic elements
- interpretative/performance skills in order to communicate the dance idea(s), including; (timing, musicality, focus, projection, emphasis and expression).

TIPS

- Watch as many different you tube clips from your chosen practitioner.
- Lift rep from three or more works and collage this together.
- We will be developing these SOLOS during the first half term.

3. Theory task – COMPONENT 2 – Please see overleaf.

And finally, as part of the requirements for this course, it is important that all students commit to a dance class outside of school. Please investigate all opportunities, visit DanceEast even!! I am keen to know what class you will be attending: it could be TECHNIQUE or PERFORMANCE based; ballet or contemporary come highly recommended. The DanceEast performance groups are PERFECT for ALEVEL students.

GOOD LUCK,

THE DANCE DEPARTMENT

THEORY TASK

Compulsory Area of Study: Rambert Dance Company (formerly Ballet Rambert) 1966-2002

Modern dance: a form of theatrical dancing which began in the early 20th century, originally in opposition to the formality of ballet. As the dance form has developed, this distinction has become less evident. The term 'modern' has in some cases been replaced with other labels e.g. contemporary. The 1960s saw the start of a process to introduce modern dance to Britain. Ballet Rambert played a key part in this development and 1966 heralded a period of change in the company. Marie Rambert was encouraged by Norman Morrice, associate director, to make changes to the company, relating to the company size, the preservation and creation of works, the inclusion of Graham technique in the dancers' training, the involvement of guest choreographers and teachers, and the development of the touring schedule. When Morrice left in 1974, John Chesworth continued Morrice's policies with the promotion of new work from company members and the expansion of the repertoire through guest choreographers. He was also instrumental in developing Rambert's educational activities. Christopher Bruce became associate director in 1975 and then associate choreographer in 1979. From 1975 to 1985 there were links between Ballet Rambert and London Contemporary Dance Theatre through the use of choreographers, e.g. Robert North and Richard Alston. In the 1980s the repertoire of Ballet Rambert focused on the work of three British choreographers: North, Bruce and Alston. North directed the company from 1981 to 1986 and was keen to develop the physicality, musicality and dramatic quality of the dancers. Alston became resident choreographer in 1980 and artistic director in 1986, consolidating the Cunningham influence. The name of the company changed to Rambert Dance Company in 1987. Bruce returned to the company in 1994 as artistic director until 2002 and continued its development with the inclusion of a range of techniques, new works, guest choreographers and a repertoire of neo-classical and modern works.

Named Practitioners

Christopher Bruce (born 1945)

Richard Alston (born 1948)

The Independent Contemporary Dance Scene in Britain 2000–Current

The last few decades have seen the emergence of several generations of successful practitioners working in Britain. Their choreographic skills have achieved considerable international recognition through their own work and that created for different companies. The work of these independent practitioners often reflects a range of styles and embraces cultural similarities and differences. It is further enhanced through their collaborations with a range of designers. The choreography can show a response to social, political and historical issues using an eclectic range of styles and aural setting.

Matthew Bourne uses choreographed body language and a variety of dance and movement styles to tell stories, supported by the design and the music. Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's background in a range of styles, including yoga and jazz, is combined with an interest in movement explored from a starting point of theatre.

Named practitioners

Matthew Bourne (born 1960)

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (born 1976)

Key Practitioners & Professional Works that we will study:

Christopher Bruce (born 1945)	Rooster	Swansong
Richard Alston (born 1948)	Soda Lake	Wildlife
Matthew Bourne (born 1960)	Nutcracker!	Swan Lake
Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (born 1976)	Sutra	Zero Degrees
Akram Khan (born 1974)	Olympic Opening Ceremony (2012)	Dust (2014)

To Do...

1. Research 5 key facts about each practitioner. These can be based on their background/route into dance, companies they worked for/associated with, technique, choreographic style etc.
2. For each work summarise the intention (what it's about) in no more than 100 words.