



Performing Arts

Year 11 into Year 12
Transition Work

Resources for BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Performing Arts

Exam board: Pearson

Information and specification can be found here:

[Specification - BTEC National Diploma in Performing Arts \(pearson.com\)](https://www.pearson.com/qualifications/btec/national-diploma-in-performing-arts)

There is no specific textbook however throughout the course students will be required to read various books, journals and articles linked to the practitioners and styles they will study. They will also be required to read various playscripts. These will be provided for the students.

Performing Arts students are required to dress in practical attire when taking part in workshops or rehearsals. This should consist of black trousers/gym leggings, a black t-shirt and trainers. From September black professional Performing Arts t-shirts will be available for purchase. More details on this will be given in September. Students should begin the school year in formal Sixth Form attire.

If you have any questions regarding the course or what is required please contact GHardiman@stmichaelscs.org

Why do we have A-Level Transition Work?

Preparation is crucial for studying A Levels.

A Level study requires you to be an **independent learner**.

Although you have fewer subjects, A Levels require different study skills and the volume of work is greater due to the increased demand of depth and detail.

The tasks in this booklet will ensure that you are ready for the exciting challenges of becoming an A Level student in September. You have the choice of either typing or handwriting your responses.

Each subject will be slightly different, but they will all require you to use the skills you will need for A Level: independent enquiry; evidence of reading around the subject and enthusiasm and interest.

Please bring your completed transition work to your first timetabled lesson in September.

Activity One

Title: Investigating Practitioners

Instructions

Choose one of the practitioners from the list below and complete research on them. Ensure all research is put in your own words and not copied and pasted. Research can be presented in written or typed form.

Find out;

- What type of theatre does your practitioner produce?
- Do they have a particular rehearsal method?
- Does their work have specific characteristics?
- What differentiates your chosen practitioner from others?

Choice of Practitioners

- The Paper Birds
- Complicite
- Antonin Artaud
- Bertolt Brecht
- Katie Mitchell
- Steven Berkoff
- Frantic Assembly
- Konstantin Stanislavski

Activity Two

Title: Theatre Review

Instructions

Write a review about a performance you have been to see recently. This could be a piece of Shakespeare, a dance piece, a play or a musical – any live performance. You should aim to speak about the acting, specifically actors that really got your attention, the direction and the design. The review should inform the reader whether you recommend attending the performance or not, so do ensure you use evaluative language. If you're not sure where to start, have a look at theatre views in the Guardian newspaper or on websites such as Time Out. Finish by giving your review a star rating out of 5.

If you are unable to attend a theatre performance, please contact Miss Hardiman on GHardiman@stmichaelscs.org and she will be able to provide you links to various performances.

Activity Three

Title: Directing a script

Instructions

Read the extract provided from Duncan MacMillan's *Lungs* - can be found [5501.pdf \(dramatists.com\)](#)

You have been asked to direct the short section of script that will be performed at a Performing Arts Festival. You have an unlimited budget. Explain how you would direct the given section. Consider the below;

- Who you would have play the characters of M and W and why
- What style you would have your actors perform in
- How you would have your characters play the characters
- What design ideas you have

Ideas can be presented in note form, annotation, power point, essay form or recorded.

Performing Arts



[Creating Chorus with Aline David | Building Choreography | National Theatre \(youtube.com\)](#)
[Sam Mendes on his Rehearsal Process | National Theatre \(youtube.com\)](#)



[Handspring Puppet Co.: The genius puppetry behind War Horse | TED Talk](#)



Community Theatre – Global Perspectives by Eugene Van Erven
[Community Theatre - Google Books](#)

[Handbook of Acting Techniques \(2008, A. Bartow\)](#)



13 Types of Acting Techniques – Article by Alex Ates
[13 Acting Methods Every Actor Should Know | Backstage](#)
To the Actor: On the Technique of Acting – Michael Chekhov
[To the Actor - Google Books](#)



[The Forum - Stanislavsky: Founder of modern acting - BBC Sounds](#)
[Great Lives - Bertolt Brecht - BBC Sounds](#)