

## Dance

### What is this subject about?

Stage 5 Dance students can explore, understand, value and enjoy dance as an art form. They can develop of a wide variety of skills under the following three syllabus components:

- **Performance** – developing dance technique through classes and performance works by studying multiple dance styles. Students also learn how to communicate meaning through dance by developing quality performances.
- **Composition** – teaches the different methods and techniques used to create and compose dance movement. Students engage in problem-solving tasks and manipulate the elements of dance as they improvise, explore, select, refine and structure movement in their own personal style to communicate ideas.
- **Appreciation** - this enables students to study and analyse dance in order to understand the meaning behind movement, to understand other choreographer's inspiration and construction methods, and to gain understanding of the influence of people, history, culture and society on dance. Students learn to observe and describe performances, compositions and dance works.

### Why study this subject?

The study of Dance promotes the physical, creative and intellectual development of each student and encourages participation and enjoyment of dance. Dance education develops skills in self-expression, the communication of ideas, collaboration, creativity, problem solving, risk taking and higher-order thinking. It is a diverse course providing students with a range of universal skills that can be applied to a variety of industries and professions as well as fostering the specific skill set required by a student heading into a career in the dance industry. The Dance course caters for students with a high level of prior knowledge, skills and experience in dance as well as those with little or no experience.

### Learning experiences

The **Performance** component is based on contemporary dance technique through which students will acquire appropriate strength, flexibility, coordination, endurance and skill. The students will also study a variety of other dance styles such as Ballet, Modern Dance and Musical Theatre. The study of safe dance practice develops a working knowledge of correct alignment of the body, correct technique of dance movement, an understanding of basic anatomy and how to apply this knowledge to become a stronger dancer.

Students will develop skills in **composition**, learning to choreograph their own dance work to express ideas, emotions and moods through movement. They will learn the different methods and techniques used to create movement and how to structure a dance work.

Students will learn to deconstruct and analyse various components of a dance through the **appreciation** component. They will learn to interpret body language, spatial awareness, and theatrical elements such as music, lighting, staging and costume design. Students will communicate their personal responses to dance in oral, written and physical forms.