



## Performing Arts – Senior Phase Course Overview

### Drama

Drama develops pupils' creativity and the ability to express themselves using characterisation skills including voice and movement, as well as technical skills when approaching theatre design. Transferrable skills such as communicating, researching and presenting information, reflecting, evaluating and using media and digital technology prepare pupils for both further education and the world of work.

### National 4 & National 5 Drama (SCQF Levels 4&5)

**Entry Requirements:** No prior attainment needed but S3 Drama is beneficial.

**Course Summary:** Pupils complete the following two units:

**Drama Skills:** Pupils use their creative skills to devise and write their own pieces of theatre. They learn how to develop characters in a range of ways and develop understanding of form, structure and style.

**Production Skills:** Pupils explore a variety of design skills in Lighting, Sound, Set, Costume, Props and Make-up design. Pupils work with scripts to realise design ideas as well as perform extracts to an audience.

**Assessment:** National 4: Internally assessed practical unit covering either acting or a choice of design techniques. National 5: Externally assessed practical exam worth 60%, written exam worth 40% of the final grade.

**Progression:** A pass at National 4 Drama can lead to National 5 Drama. A pass at National 5 Drama can lead to Higher Drama.

### Higher Drama (SCQF Level 6)

**Entry Requirements:** A pass at National 5. Students in S6 who have been successful at National 5 or Higher English.

**Course Summary:** The Higher course builds on the skills developed in National 5 and covers the same two units in greater depth:

**Drama Skills:** Pupils create and present their own pieces as before but at higher have the responsibility of directing other class members. They explore characterisation at a much deeper level in preparation for performance.

**Production Skills:** Pupils explore more complex design concepts and work with larger extracts of text.

**Assessment:** Externally assessed practical exam worth 60%, written exam worth 40% of the final grade.

**Progression:** A pass at Higher Drama can lead to Advanced Higher Drama.

## **Advanced Higher Drama (SCQF Level 7)**

**Entry Requirements:** Recommended grades of A or B at Higher Level.

**Course Summary:** The Advanced Higher course looks at Devising and Presenting in detail and in conjunction with esteemed theatre practitioners. Pupils create and lead workshops inspired by a variety of theatre styles as well as analysing relevant theatre productions.

**Assessment:** Externally assessed practical worth 60%, project dissertation worth 40% of the final grade.

**Progression:** Future career paths could include a wide range of opportunities within the creative industries and beyond such as; Actor/Actress, Stage Designer, Costume Designer, Director, Producer, Stage Manager, Drama Therapist, make-Up Artist, Youth Drama Worker, Primary & Secondary Teacher, Retail Management and Public Relations. Higher Drama is also a preferred additional Higher for the study of Medicine and Law at several universities.

## **National Progression Award (NPA) Musical Theatre (SCQF Level 6)**

**Entry Requirements:** There are no specific entry requirements but you should have performing skills broadly equivalent to SCQF level 4 to access this award. It would be beneficial if you had some previous experience of either a drama, dance, music theatre Course or Units, either in a school/ college setting or in youth or community arts performance.

**Course Summary:** The National Progression Award (NPA) in Musical Theatre (SCQF level 6) offers you the opportunity to develop your skills in the areas of acting, music and dance, all in the context of musical theatre.

The NPA also provides the specific skills, knowledge and resources that may be called on when preparing for auditions for entry to musical theatre, drama or music courses and/or the theatre or performing arts profession.

**Assessment:** You need to successfully complete three Units in order to achieve the NPA in Musical Theatre: There is one mandatory Unit (at SCQF level 6) Acting through Song.

There are four optional Units from which you must choose two Units:

- ◆ Theatre Performers: Solo Singing Skills
- ◆ Theatre Performers: Group Singing Skills
- ◆ Group Dance Performance
- ◆ Preparation for Audition

**Progression:** This NPA in Musical Theatre will give you a platform which could allow you to progress into further education and on to a National Certificate or HNC programme or help you to be better equipped to work in the performing arts industry.

## **National Progression Award (NPA) Professional Theatre Practice (SCQF Level 6)**

**Entry requirements:** It is advisable that young people opting for this course have achieved a pass in N5 Drama.

**Course summary:** The NPA in Professional Theatre Practice is a qualification designed to provide learners with foundational skills and knowledge for working in the theatre industry. It focuses on practical and theoretical aspects of professional theatre including acting, technical theatre, production management and backstage roles.

The course emphasises hands on experience, encouraging learners to develop essential skills such as collaboration, problem solving, communication and creativity. It often involves working on live performances, enabling students to understand the demands of professional theatre environments.

The NPA is suitable for individuals aiming to pursue further education or a career in theatre and related industries, offering a stepping stone into HNDs, degrees, or entry level theatre roles.

**Assessment:** There are two units which make up NPA Professional Theatre Preparation: Preparation for Audition and Acting Skills. There is no final exam for this NPA.

**Progression:** This NPA in Professional Theatre Practice will give you a platform which could allow you to progress into further education and on to a National Certificate or HNC programme or help you to be better equipped to work in the performing arts industry.

## **Music**

In Music learners will develop performing skills in solo and/or group settings on their two chosen instruments or on one instrument and voice. Learners will be able to perform challenging music with sufficient accuracy whilst maintaining the musical flow. Pupils will have the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and understanding of music and musical literacy by listening to music and identifying a range of music signs, symbols and concepts, as well as creating original music using compositional methods and music technology. The skills developed in music, such as confidence in performing, critical reflection, evaluation and personal target setting, are transferable across the curriculum and essential for pupils' lifelong learning.

## **National 4 & National 5 Music (SCQF Levels 4 & 5)**

**Entry Requirements:** No prior attainment needed but S3 Music is beneficial.

### **Course Summary:**

#### **Performing Skills**

In this Unit, learners will develop their performing skills and technique on two instruments or one instrument and voice and prepare and perform a programme of music at an appropriate level:

[National 4:](#) 8 minute programme Grade 2 ABRSM or equivalent

[National 5:](#) 8 minute programme Grade 3 ABRSM or equivalent

### **Understanding Music**

Pupils will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of musical styles and techniques from Renaissance to 21st Century music. They will analyse the impact of social and cultural influences on the development of specific music styles and identify level-specific music concepts.

### **Composing Skills**

In this Unit, learners will experiment with and use compositional methods and music concepts in creative ways to realise their intentions when creating original music. Learners will critically reflect on and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of their choices and decisions on their music. They will also analyse how musicians and composers create music in different ways and the influences on their music.

**Assessment:** The National 4 Music course is internally assessed, and evidence will be gathered from a wide range of medium including observation, video/audio recordings, assessor checklists and course work.

In National 5, the performance element will be assessed by a visiting assessor and makes up 50% of the total mark. The understanding music element is assessed in the form of a question paper which will test the learner's knowledge and understanding of music concepts and musical literacy and makes up 35% of the total mark. In National 5 the composing element of the course is assessed in the form of a creative folio which is sent to SQA and makes up 15% of the total mark.

**Progression:** A pass at National 4 Music can lead to National 5 Music. A pass at National 5 Music can lead to Higher Music.

### **Higher Music (SCQF Level 6)**

**Entry Requirements:** A pass at National 5 Music.

### **Course Summary:**

#### **Performing Skills**

In this Unit, learners will develop their performing skills and technique on two instruments or one instrument and voice and prepare and perform a programme of music at an appropriate level:

[Higher:](#) 12 minute programme Grade 4 ABRSM or equivalent

### **Understanding Music**

Pupils will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of musical styles and techniques from Renaissance to 21st Century music. They will analyse the impact of social and

cultural influences on the development of specific music styles and identify level-specific music concepts.

### **Composing Skills**

In this Unit, learners will experiment with and use compositional methods and music concepts in creative ways to realise their intentions when creating original music. Learners will critically reflect on and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of their choices and decisions on their music. They will also analyse how musicians and composers create music in different ways and the influences on their music.

**Assessment:** In Higher the performance element will be assessed by a visiting assessor and makes up 50% of the total mark. The understanding music element is assessed in the form of a question paper which will test the learner's knowledge and understanding of music concepts and musical literacy and makes up 35% of the total mark. In Higher the composing element of the course is assessed in the form of a creative folio which is sent to SQA and makes up 15% of the total mark.

**Progression:** A pass at Higher Music can lead to Advanced Higher Music.

### **Advanced Higher Music (SCQF Level 7)**

**Entry Requirements:** Recommended grades of A or B at Higher Level.

### **Course Summary:**

#### **Performing Skills**

In this Unit, learners will develop their performing skills and technique on two instruments or one instrument and voice and prepare and perform a programme of music at an appropriate level:

Advanced Higher: 18 minute programme Grade 5 ABRSM or equivalent

#### **Understanding Music**

Pupils will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of musical styles and techniques from Renaissance to 21st Century music. They will analyse the impact of social and cultural influences on the development of specific music styles and identify level-specific music concepts.

#### **Composing Skills**

In this Unit, learners will experiment with and use compositional methods and music concepts in creative ways to realise their intentions when creating original music. Learners will critically reflect on and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of their choices and decisions on their music. They will also analyse how musicians and composers create music in different ways and the influences on their music.

**Assessment:** In Advanced Higher the performance element will be assessed by a visiting assessor and makes up 50% of the total mark. The understanding music element is

assessed in the form of a question paper which will test the learner's knowledge and understanding of music concepts and musical literacy and makes up 35% of the total mark. In Advanced Higher the composing element of the course also includes a 600-800 word musical analysis of a piece of your choosing.

**Progression:** Future possible career paths include a range of opportunities within the creative industries and beyond such as; Musician, Music Therapist, Journalist, Stage Manager, Producer, DJ, Presenter, Primary and Secondary Teacher, Sound Technician and Public Relations.

### **National Progression Award (NPA) Music Performance (SCQF Level 6)**

**Entry Requirements:** There are no specific entry requirements but you should have performing skills broadly equivalent to SCQF level 4 to access the award.

**Course Summary:** The NPA in Music Performing (SCQF level 6) will give you the opportunity to further develop your skills in the area of performing and the technical skills related to performing. This can be on any instrument and in any musical style or genre.

**Assessment:** You need to successfully complete three Units in order to achieve the award. There are two mandatory Units (both at SCQF level 6).

Music: Live Performance

Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice

There are 4 optional Units from which you must choose one Unit.

Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (SCQF level 5)

Creative Project

Music: Technical Support

Music: Promotion in the Music Industry

**Progression:** The NPA in Music Performing at SCQF level 6 will give you a platform which will allow you to progress into further education, this could include progressing on to a National Certificate or HNC programme, or help you to be better equipped to work in the music industry.