

Extended Diploma in Performing Arts

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Course Level: Level 3 | **Campus: Stafford** | **Subject Type: Music & Performing Arts**

Course Overview:

Whether you dream of treading the boards and becoming an acclaimed actor, want to dance, direct or make your mark behind the scenes as a stage manager, this course prepares you for the next step towards your chosen career.

What's Covered:

You will study a range of units relating to all aspects of performing arts including acting, singing, musical theatre and dance.

During the course you will study a range of performance and dance styles including classical and contemporary theatre performance, auditions for actors, voice, applying acting styles, directing and devising plays as well as core units examining the principles of acting, performing arts business and rehearsing and performing to an audience.

The course is based around practical and academic activities including units that are largely performance or production based.

The study programme also incorporates a range of work related experience activities to ensure that you have the breadth of skills required to progress to further/higher education, employment or an apprenticeship.

You will also learn to work and perform in a professional environment and take part in a large number of performances with guest speakers and practitioners throughout the course who will guide you in a number of course-related activities.

100%

pass rate

69.2%

achieved DMM+ in 2026

Entry Requirements:

You will need a minimum of four or more high grades at GCSE in subjects relevant to the course you'd like to study, including maths and/or English Language at grade 4 or above. Alternatively, you'll need a Level 2 Diploma with overall Merit in a relevant subject and maths and English at appropriate levels.

You will be invited to interview/audition where you will have the opportunity to meet the department and be shown the facilities.

You will be asked questions about your interests, and where applicable your compositions and allow you the opportunity to tell us all about your passion for the subject.

Maths and English

Alongside your course you will study Maths and/or English to improve your skills in these vital subjects by attending structured weekly sessions as part of your timetable. Maths and English development is also integrated in practical assignments.

Assessment Information:

The course contains a number of mandatory and specialist units in acting, dancing and singing. You will be assessed continually throughout the year as you complete each task within a unit of study. Tasks vary and include practical work, written reports and presentations.

Fees and Financial Support:

This course is free for anyone aged 16 – 18.

College Maintenance Allowance (CMA):

Anyone with a gross household income under £35,000 can receive financial support to cover college related costs such as transport, meals, course equipment and uniform. Bursary support is based on individual circumstances and will be allocated to best suit your individual needs. A range of other financial support is available depending on your personal circumstances. For more details visit nscg.ac.uk/finance

Progression:

Students may either enter the profession on completion of this course, continue their studies at Stafford College on a relevant HE course or apply straight to university to undertake a degree programme.

How do I find out more?

If you wish to find out more you can contact us by email at: performingarts@nscg.ac.uk