



## Birchwood High School Expressive Arts Faculty

The Expressive and Performing Arts Faculty, comprises of three completely refurbished Art rooms along with gallery space and sixth-form Art room, a Drama studio, a purpose build Dance studio and a Music suite comprising two classroom, a newly-built Music Technology room, recording studio and a number of practice rooms. We are in the process of planning the creation of a theatre where our assembly hall currently stands. We have a central Expressive Arts office, although the Art Department has retained its independent office.

### Staff

The Faculty form a very strong, friendly and supportive team. The teaching staffing structure is as follows:

<b>Vanessa Bowman</b> Head of Expressive Arts and Performing Arts and Acting Head of Art	<b>Michelle Edwards</b> Music
<b>Matthew Grogan</b> Head of Music	<b>Julia Fonnereau</b> Art (part time)
<b>Joanne Pearman</b> Head of Art (until August 2012)	Carol Hinds Art (part time)
<b>Chris Woodley</b> Head of Drama	<b>Victoria Pegg</b> Art (maternity leave cover)
<b>Caitline Bresnen</b> Dance (part time)	<b>Liz Walker</b> Art (part time)

The Faculty is also supported by two part-time Technicians – Lizzie Honeywood and Jill Poultney.

### The Expressive Arts Curriculum

The teaching of Expressive Arts at KS3 is undertaken as follows: Art, Drama and Music are taught on a weekly basis for all students throughout years 7 and 8. At Birchwood we have a shortened KS3 and in Year 8 students make their options. Year 9 students follow a developmental year and take the Arts Award at Bronze/Silver level in Dance, Drama and Music and in Art they follow the OCR Entry Level qualification.

At KS4, in Art we follow the OCR GCSE specification in Art and Design, in Music we follow the AQA GCSE course and in Drama students follow the Edexcel specification for GCSE.

At post-16, OCR Advanced GCE in Art and Design is taught, Edexcel Drama and Theatre Studies is the course followed in Drama and we are considering the possibility of offering a level 3 BTEC in Performing Arts. Post 16 courses offered in Music are: AQA Music with a possibility of Music Technology running as part of the consortium.

### Results

Results at Birchwood are good - Proud though we are of these results, we are aiming to significantly build upon this in the current academic year and further aim to increase the number of students opting for Expressive and Performing Arts at KS4 and KS5, allowing us to offer a wider range of courses to meet the needs of all our students.

Art 59%  
Dance – first examination 2012  
Drama 70%  
Music 47%

### Extra-Curricular Activities

We offer students the opportunity to go on a variety of trips throughout the year; including Theatre, Concert and Gallery trips in order to enrich their classroom experience. We offer the opportunity for students to get involved in productions, concerts and have work exhibited around Bishop's Stortford. As a faculty we are keen to develop links with Primary schools, encouraging students to get involved with various Arts projects to further develop their understanding. In addition to this we are in the process of introducing Artists in residence for Art, Dance, Drama and Music. Providing students with yet more opportunities to access the Arts.