The following subject specific vocabulary provides definitions of key terms used in our GCSE Dance specification (8236). Students should be familiar with and gain understanding of these terms.

**Accessory**
An additional item of costume, for example gloves.

**Actions**
What a dancer does eg travelling, turning, elevation, gesture, stillness, use of body parts, floor-work and the transference of weight.

**Acceleration**
Speeding up the movement.

**Accompaniment**
The sound that you hear during a dance, for example: percussion.

**Accumulation**
When a dancer performs a series of movements and others join in at different times until all perform in unison.

**Air pattern**
A design that is traced in the air by part of the body.

**Alignment**
Correct placement of body parts in relation to each other.

**Appreciation**
Recognition and understanding of the qualities of dance.

**Artistic intention**
The aim of a dance; what the choreographer aims to communicate.
Artistry
Creative skill.

Auditory
Relating to sound.

Aural setting
An audible accompaniment to the dance such as music, words, song and natural sound (or silence).

Balance
A steady or held position achieved by an even distribution of weight.

Binary
A composition in two parts or sections.

Canon
When the same movements overlap in time.

Choreographic approach
The way in which a choreographer makes the dance.

Choreographic devices
Methods used to develop and vary material.

Choreographic intention
The aim of the dance; what the choreographer aims to communicate.

Choreographic processes
Activities involved in creating dance such as improvisation, selection and development.

Choreography
The art of creating dance.

Climax
The most significant moment of the dance.
Complementary
Perform actions or shapes that are similar to but not exactly the same as another dancer’s.

Constituent features
Characteristics of choreography such as style, stimulus, subject matter, number/gender of dancers, action content, choreographic principles, form and structure, physical and aural settings.

Contrast
Movements or shapes that have nothing in common.

Control
The ability to start and stop movement, change direction and hold a shape efficiently.

Coordination
The efficient combination of body parts.

Costume
Clothing worn by dancers in performance.

Counterpoint
When dancers perform different phrases simultaneously.

Critical appreciation
Evaluation of dance based upon knowledge and understanding, including original insights.

Dance film
Where dance and film are both integral to a work; this includes documentary, animation, dance for camera and a screen adaption of a stage work.

Dance for camera
Where the choreographer collaborates with (or is) the film-maker; where the intention is to produce a dance work in a multi-media form that cannot be achieved in live performance.

Dancewear
What the dancer wears for class and rehearsal.
Deceleration
Slowing down the movement.

Development
The way in which movement material is manipulated.

Direction
The facing of a movement.

Dynamics
The qualities of movement based upon variations in speed, strength and flow.

Elements of dance
Actions, space, dynamics and relationships.

Elevation
The action of “going up” without support, such as in a jump.

End-stage
A performance space with the audience on one side; also known as “end-on”.

Episodic
A choreography with several sections, linked by a theme.

Execution
Carrying out actions with the required intention.

Expressive skills
Aspects that contribute to performance artistry and that engage the audience, such as focus and musicality.

Extension
Lengthening one or more muscles or limbs.

Facial expression
Use of the face to show mood, feeling or character.

Features of production
Lighting, set, properties, costume and aural setting.
Flexibility
The range of movement in the joints (involving muscles, tendons and ligaments).

Focus (use of)
Use of the eyes to enhance performance or interpretative qualities.

Form
The overall shape and structure of a dance.

Formations
Shapes or patterns created in space by dancers.

Fragmentation
Use of parts of a phrase or motif.

Highlights
Important moments of a dance.

Ideational
Relating to ideas or concepts.

Improvisation
Exploration or generation of movements without planning.

In-the-round
A performing area with the audience seated on all sides.

Intention
Aim or desired outcome.

Interpretation
Finding the meaning that is in the movement or finding the movement that is in the idea.

Isolation
An independent movement of part of the body.

Kinaesthetic
Sensory perception (or awareness) of movement and position.
Levels
Distance from the ground: low, medium or high.

Lighting
The illumination of the performance area.

Logical sequence
The flow of phrases or sections of a dance.

Manipulation of number
How the number of dancers in a group is used.

Mental rehearsal
Thinking through or visualising the dance.

Mental skills
These include commitment, concentration, confidence, movement memory, systematic repetition, mental rehearsal, rehearsal discipline, planning of rehearsal, response to feedback and capacity to improve.

Mobility
The range of movement in a joint; the ability to move fluently from action to action.

Motif
A movement phrase encapsulating an idea that is repeated and developed throughout the dance.

Motif development
Ways in which a movement phrase can be varied.

Movement material
The matter of dance: actions, space, dynamics and relationships.

Musicality
The ability to make the unique qualities of the accompaniment evident in performance.
Narrative
Dance that tells a story.

Pathways
Designs traced in space (on the floor or in the air).

Performance
The presentation of dance to an audience.

Performance (personal)
Acquisition and development of physical and expressive skills.

Performance environments
Different settings for dance such as in-the-round, proscenium and site-sensitive.

Phrase
A short sequence of linked movements.

Phrasing
The way in which the energy is distributed in the execution of a movement phrase.

Physical skills
Aspects enabling effective performance such as posture, alignment, balance, coordination, control, flexibility, mobility, strength, stamina, extension and isolation.

Posture
The way the body is held.

Professional work
Original choreography by an individual or company that is recognised nationally or internationally.

Projection
The energy the dancer uses to connect with and draw in the audience.
Prop/property
A portable object that is used in a dance, for example a suitcase.

Proscenium
The arch or opening that creates the effect of a picture frame and separates the stage from the auditorium.

Rehearsal discipline
Attributes and skills required for refining performance such as commitment, systematic repetition, teamwork, responsibility and effective use of time.

Repetition
Performing the same action or phrase again.

Relationships
The ways in which dancers interact; the connections between dancers.

Retrograde
Reversing a movement phrase.

Rhythmic content
Repeated patterns of sound or movement.

Rondo
A music or dance form with alternating and repeating sections eg verse and chorus.

Safe execution
Carrying out actions safely.

Safe working practice
Personal care, respect for others, safe execution and preparation and recovery from dancing.

Sensitivity to other dancers
Awareness of and connection to other dancers.

Site sensitive
Dances that are designed for (or relate to) non-theatre spaces.
Space
The “where” of movement such as levels, directions, pathways, shapes, designs and patterns.

Spatial awareness
Consciousness of the surrounding space and its effective use.

Staging/set
The presentation of dance in the performing space including set, furniture, props, projection and backdrop.

Stamina
Ability to maintain physical and mental energy over periods of time.

Stimulus/stimuli
Inspiration for an idea or movement.

Strength
Muscular power.

Structure
The way in which material is organised to create the whole.

Structuring devices
The ways in which a dance is made, built, ordered or organised.

Style
Characteristic way of dancing.

Style fusion
The combination of features of two or more styles.

Tactile
Relating to the sense of touch.

Technical skills
These include accuracy of action, timing, dynamic, rhythmic and spatial content and the reproduction of movement in a stylistically accurate way.
**Ternary**
A composition in three parts.

**Timing**
The use of time or counts when matching movements to sound and/or other dancers.

**Transitions**
Links between dance phrases or sections.

**Types (of music)**
Genres of music including orchestral, electronic, percussion, vocal and found sound.

**Unison**
Two or more dancers performing the same movement at the same time.

**Unity**
A sense of “wholeness” or harmony.

**Visual**
Relating to sight.