

SPOTLIGHT ON MUSIC PRODUCTION

It's been fast moving in Music Production since half term. Our first year cohort have completed their studio proficiency unit and have been hiring out our studio to collaborate on recording projects. They have also started their DAW sequencing unit and are working towards assessment in April. Learners have complete the 'approaching a composition' project, preparing them to tackle any music making brief. This includes analysing and evaluating music purposes, sketches, sound palettes, context, narrative and composition strategies.

High achieving student, Franklin Lee-Ryan remixed Lady Gaga for our Dance students' performance show in December.

Second year learners are deep into their Analog Synthesis and Sound For Media units. Learners have been building synth patches for music, film and games. They have composed character themes, background music and created incidental sound effects to significant works. The Joker, Hunger Games and Stranger Things to name a few.

Music students have been taking part in DJ club. DJing is a great way to share your favourite music and showcase your own productions. If you would like to learn how to DJ with the aim to showcase your skills in college, see Ed Kelly, Music Production Tutor and start at lunchtime on Thursdays 11-1pm.

DEPARTMENT NEWS



ASHTON
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Part of
STAMFORD
PARK TRUST



FORMER STUDENTS RETURN FOR MASTERCLASS

Former Students Emma and Kristian returned to Lead a dance Masterclass. Emma is now attending Trinity Laban and Kristian as is the Northern School for Contemporary Dance. We were thrilled to welcome them back and the students really benefited from their expertise.



After a very busy term, The team here in Performing Arts would like to wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and a healthy New Year!

We hope you have a fantastic festive period and we look forward to welcoming all of our students back on Tuesday 6th January 2026

ASHTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS WINTER NEWSLETTER



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

In Performing Arts, we pride ourselves with being active on social media so we can spread the word about all the amazing things our students are up to. We are on the following platforms if you would like to give us a follow!



ASFC Performing Arts: Dance



@asfc_performing_arts



@asfcperformingarts



SPOTLIGHT ON DRAMA

We took our first trip of the academic year to the theatre this term. Year 1 and Year 2 visited The Lowry to watch the fantastic Frantic Assembly's Lost Atoms. Students were treated to an inspiring and entertaining performance that touched on a couple's life together. Students evaluated this performance for their CAP 2 and Mock Exams and took ideas and themes into their own practical work.

We have also presented two performances of our own. Year 2 completed their Devising Exam. They created their own pieces, taking inspiration from Blasted by Sarah Kane, resulting in powerful and meaningful theatre. Year 1 completed their first ever performance at Ashton Sixth Form College. They presented work in different theatre styles and worked on their stage technique and performance skills. Some of our Year 1's had never performed in front of a live audience and yet their work demonstrated great talent and confidence. It was wonderful to have several of Year 2 supporting Year 1 by providing technical support on the night of their performance and in turn, many of our Year 1's backing Year 2 by watching their exam. It's a testament to their mutual respect and support.

We are so proud of the continuing effort, talent, dedication and attitude our students demonstrate daily.



SPOTLIGHT ON DANCE

We were thrilled to welcome back Vanessa Murphy, Tycoons Allstars and one of our incredibly talented former Performance students (DDD*). Vanessa captivated our Year 1 Dance students with her inspiring journey—from training to life as a performer, coach, and entrepreneur. Her insights were invaluable, and we can't wait to have her back again soon.

First Show of the Term – What a Performance!
Our dancers have already wowed audiences with their first show this term, delivering an exceptional standard across a stunning mix of contemporary, jazz, and commercial pieces, including their full-company commercial group dance. A huge thank you to everyone who came to support—it means the world to our performers!

WHAT'S NEXT?

We're not slowing down! In the new year, we'll welcome more alumni to share their stories and begin preparations for our next big show. Plus, we have exciting trips planned to see Motionhouse and Diversity—experiences that promise to inspire and energize our students even further!



SPOTLIGHT ON MUSIC PERFORMANCE

This half term we have started a brand new Music Theory club with Alec Wares on Wednesday 2nd Year Lunchtimes (all welcome!)

We welcomed a new guitar teacher and RNCM alumni James Cooke to the team and we've been on a trip to Leeds Arts University, building a new connection with a fantastic University and Music Performance Undergraduate course. I have put some photos in the folder.

PERIPATETIC LESSONS

Peripatetic lessons continue at ASFC. On offer are Vocal Lessons, Guitar Lessons, Piano lessons, Drum Lessons, and Music Theory. If you are interested in finding out more, then get in touch with Olly Kraweckyj.