



28th March 2018

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I am writing with information about your child's Expressive and Performing Arts lessons for the majority of the rest of this academic year. You may be aware that we run an exam course with Y9; this will be the eighth year we have entered pupils for a Trinity Performance Arts Exam, details of which follow below. This letter *is* quite lengthy but addresses the questions that parents most frequently ask.

Is it a solo or group exam?	Group Exam – Most of the cohort will be entered at Grade 3 or 4; a very small number may be entered at Grade 5 or 6.
When will Exam preparation start?	Most departments start around Easter; Art may have started earlier than this.
Are pupils in different groups in each subject?	NO. Pupils will work as the <u>same</u> small group in Dance, Drama and Music lessons. Although pupils have a large say in who they work with, the final decision about groups will be taken <u>by staff</u> as we have to ensure that the groupings created can and will work effectively in each of the three performing subjects. Work in Art continues to be individual.
Which subjects are used in the exam?	Pupils prepare work for the exam in <u>all four</u> subjects – Art, Dance, Drama and Music. As we approach the exam time, there is scope and flexibility to pick the strongest work that each group has created.
Is there a written exam?	No.
When will the exam be and how long does it last?	We have already reserved the dates Mon 9 th – Fri 13 th July 2018. Each exam performance is around 14 minutes long; higher grades are slightly longer.
Who examines the performances?	A Trinity examiner visits and examines for five days.
Do we have to wait until August for results, like GCSEs?	No; the results are with us much sooner. We would expect to be able to let pupils have the results before we break up for the summer holiday.
My child has already done Trinity group exams through Extra-Curricular groups (possibly out of school).	The Exam done at Extra-Curricular groups and via EPA lessons are different and there should not be any overlap. If s/he has done Trinity exams out of school, we need to check that there is no duplication and may require a certificate to be brought in.
How is the Exam graded?	Pass, Merit and Distinction.





My child is eg a Grade 5 dancer; will s/he automatically do Grade 5 Trinity?	No; it is totally dependent on the standard that the <u>whole group</u> can achieve and also on the Grade your child can work at across all the subjects, <u>not just one</u> .
Is there a charge for the Exam?	Yes, but the entry fees are paid by School.
What was the success rate of the exam in 2017?	Out of nearly 300 entries, pupils earned: <u>Grade 3</u> 100% passed (60% passed with Merit or Distinction); <u>Grade 4</u> 47% entered got Distinction / 52% got Merit; <u>Grade 5</u> 100% entered got Distinction.
How is the Exam Entry Grade decided?	All four of your child's EPA staff are consulted for their subject Grade recommendation and the best average of these grades is taken as the actual entry grade.
Is it possible to change Exam Group?	Group changes need to be avoided if at all possible. Out of nearly 300 candidates, we only <u>ever</u> have requests from maybe just two or three pupils per year to change Exam group. Exam entries have to be with the Exam Board <u>six</u> weeks before the Exam Week and so, to allow time for administrative processing, any such request can only be considered if it has been sent to j.wolfenden@bridgewaterhigh.com <u>not less than 8 weeks</u> before the exam week (i.e. by Fri 11 th May). Even so, we cannot guarantee that a move could or would be organized.
Can my child opt out of a Group to do a Solo Exam?	Solo Exams are only used in <u>exceptional</u> circumstances because, if many pupils wished to do this, it would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ increase the overall Exam fees too much. ➤ increase the number of Exam time slots needed too much.

The Trinity Exam is totally separate from all Expressive & Performing Arts GCSEs or BTECs for Y10 / 11; the fact a pupil is entered for this in Y9 in no way replaces any part of any of these KS4 exams.

I will write to you again when the specific exam day / time for your child is confirmed. May I ask you to contact E.Lamb@bridgewaterhigh.com if:

1. You already know your child has something else booked between 9th – 13th July which would clash with an exam during the school day. Although we hope clashes will be very few in number, I work out the group Exam times so, *providing I know early enough*, I can endeavour to work round this.
2. Your child has already done a Trinity Performance Arts Exam (quoting the title of the exam and the Grade).

Yours sincerely,

J. Wolfenden Miss J Wolfenden KS3 Expressive & Performing Arts Co-ordinator



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