



**BTEC**  
**Performing Arts**  
**Prospectus**

**Level 3**  
**National Extended**  
**Certificate**  
**Performance**  
**(Musical Theatre)**



**Platform**The logo for PlatformUp, featuring the word "Platform" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, followed by a red circle containing the word "Up" in a white, stylized script font.



# Why Platform?

*Platform opened in 2004. We are a musical theatre school who train students from the age of 3 in all areas of performing arts.*

*Many of our students have gone on to professional careers in the arts and lots have gained professional work through our agency while a student at Platform.*

*We value our students as individuals and genuinely care about every student. We have an outstanding team of teachers who are committed to supporting and pushing students to reach their full potential. We have worked hard to create a school where our staff and students value themselves and each other.*

*We push for excellence both in training and in our pastoral care and are incredibly proud of all of our students past and present.*

*Each student is special and unique and we value this.*

*It is a testament to our team that Platform students remain a part of our Platform family even after they graduate.*

*I couldn't imagine my life without it as it has now become like a family to me!*

*- Maisy (Platform Student)*



# Meet The Team



**Tracey Eley**  
*Principal*

Tracey trained at Italia Conti Academy of Dramatic Art in London. Upon graduating she opened Platform YP. Platform is a huge part of Tracey's life and she is extremely passionate about her students. As Platform Principal she has directed well over 200 performances at venues including The Whitty Theatre, The London Palladium, Her Majesty's Theatre and the Vaults. She has, with her students, recorded at Angel Studios, Lakeside Studio and with Platform released an album on Apple Music. Tracey led the team that took Platform's production of You're A Good Man Charlie Brown to The Edinburgh Fringe Festival.



**Ashleigh Payne**  
*BTEC Course Director*

Ashleigh graduated from the University of Chichester with a BA(Hons) in Musical Theatre in 2016 and has since been teaching Musical Theatre and LAMDA at Platform YP. Ashleigh also has 3 years experience teaching BTEC Level 3 students and helping them gain places at University and Performing Arts Colleges. She has been Musical Director and Director of many shows at Platform. Ashleigh was part of a team that took a show to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2018 and The Vaults, London in 2019. Ashleigh is thrilled to be BTEC Course Director and to be able to offer this amazing course to young people who aspire for a career in Musical Theatre.

*Platform is a very friendly drama group – you're not just another student to Tracey*

- Nicky (Platform Parent)





# Meet The Team

## Nic Brunton

### *Musical Theatre Teacher & Agency Director*

Nic trained at PPA for three years and has experience teaching classes for 15 years starting with assisting at the age of 13 and leading her own classes at 15. After full time training she realised that her heart was not in performing but in teaching and went on to teach for numerous theatre schools across Berkshire and Surrey, preparing students for West End auditions, scholarship auditions, college auditions and examinations as well as teaching performing arts at GCSE level and delivering workshops in primary and senior schools. Nic also has a background in business management, customer service and administration which supports the work she does with the agency.



## Louisa Mpofu

### *Dance Teacher*

Louisa started dancing as a child and went on to study full time at Dancepoint, Glasgow, and Italia Conti, London.

She is trained in ballet, jazz, tap, modern, lyrical, commercial and musical jazz as well as acro.

After working as a dancer she took time out to raise a family but returned to her creative side, choreographing for shows in London and locally.

She now teaches dance in Berkshire and Surrey



*Everyone is always willing to help you but also the support and quality of teaching is phenomenal*

- Emily (Platform Student)

# Course Overview

*This is an exciting, vocationally based course designed to develop and prepare you for a career in the performing arts industry.*

*It focuses on developing skills in three specific discipline areas: acting, singing and dancing.*

*You will study FIVE units over 2 years where you will train, develop, improve your practical skills and broaden your understanding of the contextual factors within the works of professional performing practitioners.*

## **Developing Skills and Techniques for Performance**

In this unit, you will develop the appropriate skills and techniques for a performance discipline.

You will participate in regular workshops, classes and exercises where you will acquire, practise and develop the necessary technical, practical and interpretative performance skills to help you succeed when performing live to an audience.

## **Musical Theatre Technique**

You will the explore key features of musical theatre, developing specialist skills and techniques as a musical theatre performer combining acting, singing and dance skills for a performance.





# Course Overview

## **Jazz Dance Techniques**

You will develop skills and techniques that will enable you to understand the key technical and stylistic features of jazz dance.

By learning and watching different styles of jazz dance, you will develop an understanding of the diversity of this dance form and the practitioners who have influenced the development of the style.

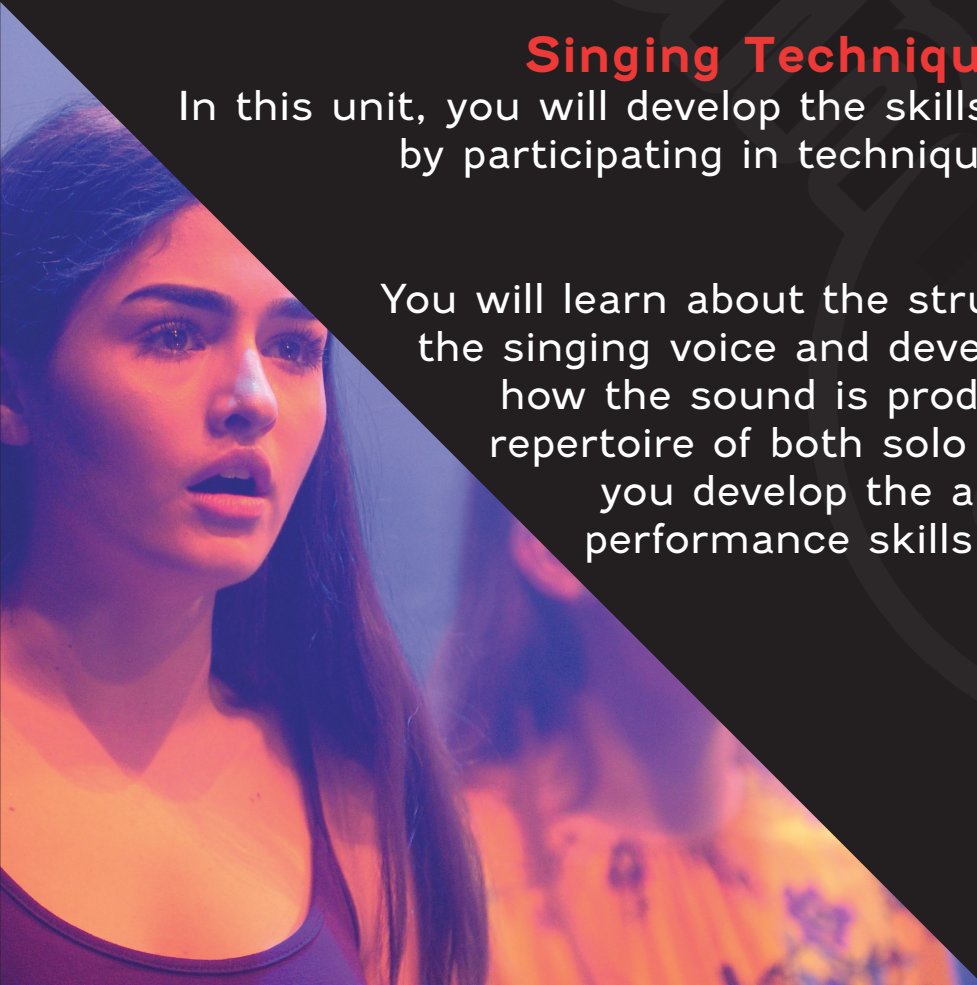
## **Group Performance Workshop (Externally Assessed)**

In this unit, you will develop an original piece of theatre based on a stimulus using research, discussion and practical exploration to develop performance material and later present to an invited audience.

## **Singing Techniques for Performance**

In this unit, you will develop the skills required to be a singer by participating in technique classes, rehearsal and performance pieces.

You will learn about the structure and physiology of the singing voice and develop an understanding of how the sound is produced. You will develop a repertoire of both solo and ensemble pieces as you develop the appropriate technical and performance skills required to be a singer.



# What Is A BTEC?

**BTEC Nationals are career-based qualifications designed to give students the skills they need to move on to higher education or go straight into employment.**

**More employers and higher education institutions than ever before are choosing BTEC-qualified candidates for their academic and practical knowledge and skills.**

**BTEC Nationals develop practical knowledge and skills which help learners to prepare for – and progress in – their chosen career.**

**Along with A levels, BTEC Nationals are the most recognised qualification used for University entrance.**

## **Why are we offering a BTEC?**

**Many local schools/colleges do not offer a performing arts training course for Level 3 students, only drama. We felt that this had to be addressed as our students are having to travel out of area just to study a course in their chosen field.**

**Our students are covering lots of the components within their weekly classes already and we would love to be able to offer them a qualification for their hard work and commitment to their training. This course is designed to run out of school/college hours along side any other A-Levels or college qualification, including drama.**

**Our aim is to take our students training to the next level and prepare them for University and Performing Arts College.**





# Application & Fees

## Entry Requirements

Grade 5 or equivalent in acting, singing and dance.  
No formal qualifications needed as we will assess in audition.  
It's not a requirement to currently be a student at Platform YP.

For your audition, you will need to prepare one Musical Theatre song and take part in a Jazz Dance Class.

## Funding

This is a private course and fees are £600/term for 5 terms over two years. There is also the additional examination fee of around £130 payable at the start of the course.

## Hours

In order to do the BTEC course students must attend the following Platform classes and also the extended BTEC specific class. The fee covers all classes listed and also allows BTEC students to add any other Platform classes at no additional cost, excluding private lessons.

## Compulsory Classes

FRIDAY 5-7pm - Senior Musical Theatre  
SATURDAY 9-10:15am - Jazz / Tap  
SATURDAY 10.15-11:30am - BTEC Specific Class  
SATURDAY 12-1pm - Ballet

## Optional Classes

MONDAY 6-7pm - Body Con / Limbering  
TUESDAY TBC - Street Dance  
FRIDAY 17-7:45pm - LAMDA

Private Lessons are available at an additional cost



# Platform Graduates

## Introducing Our Patron - Vinny Coyle

I'm delighted to announce I'll be Platform's first patron. I started my journey with Platform at the age of 12, I worked under the guidance of their staff and training until the age of 17, and to this day, I still look back at my time there with incredibly fond memories. I owe a vast majority of my achievements to their incredible commitment and willingness to develop me and their other students to the highest level through their training.



When I was offered this position I felt extremely honoured. We have always believed in the same training values: Discover, develop and deliver! Talent is not always something an individual is born with, it requires commitment and attention to detail to enable each student to flourish under the pressures of performing. This is where Platform is different, they provide an environment where you can play and discover to produce results, whilst gaining confidence, without the pressures of being judged. I believe we make our greatest discoveries from the failures and hurdles we come across in life, and it's this safe space, which I have experienced, that creates a passage to an open world of possibilities for budding young performers to thrive in. Being able to work with an ever flowing stream of industries professionals is a privilege for the students and brings the life of working in the industry a touch closer, allowing students to realise their aspirations are well within reach.

Regardless of the strand of theatre and the arts, students want to pursue, the doors remain open to every avenue, putting them





# Platform Graduates

directly in charge of the path they choose to take. As a young, aspiring performer, this is an opportunity I would have loved to have been offered. I'd have taken this opportunity with both hands!

Having learnt first hand what is offered at Platform, I am extremely excited to work alongside the new intake of students to find out the best way to help them achieve their dreams and goals. I had a dream which I believed was impossible... it turns out if you find the right path, dreams are achievable. All you need is to find the right place for you! That's why I believe in Platform... discover your path, develop your skills the way you want and deliver the dreams you thought were unreachable. Train your way, by training the Platform way!

*Vinny Coyle, January 2021*

## Recent Platform Graduate Destinations Include

ArtsEd  
Bird College  
Chichester Conservatoire  
Emil Dale Academy  
Guildford School of Acting  
Italia Conti  
LIPA  
Musical Theatre Academy  
PPA  
Performers' College  
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland  
Stella Mann College  
Wilkes Academy



Platform

