

Year 9 Dance

Unit 1 Topic Title : Beat It – Style, Characterisation and Performance

Learning Objectives

Students refine and apply the technical, expressive and choreographic skills developed throughout Key Stage 3 through the study of Michael Jackson's iconic *Beat It*. They explore how dance communicates narrative, conflict and emotion whilst developing advanced performance quality, characterisation and musical interpretation. Students perform teacher-led choreography with increasing technical accuracy before independently creating choreography inspired by the themes of the work. Throughout the unit they deepen their understanding of Michael Jackson's influence on popular dance, confidently applying subject-specific vocabulary to analyse, evaluate and refine their own and others' performances.

Students will develop:

- Technical precision, coordination and control.
- Musicality, timing and synchronisation.
- Characterisation and expressive performance.
- Choreographic creativity using canon, unison, formations, motifs and dynamics.
- Performance confidence and resilience.
- Critical evaluation using appropriate dance terminology.
- Leadership, collaboration and independence.
- Understanding of dance as a storytelling medium.

What previous knowledge is required?

Students should already be able to:

- Perform confidently using a range of performance skills.
- Apply choreographic devices independently.
- Demonstrate secure timing, rhythm and musicality.
- Create and refine original choreography.
- Evaluate performances using subject-specific vocabulary.
- Understand safe dance practice.
- Work collaboratively whilst responding positively to feedback.

Students build directly upon the performance quality and choreography developed in Year 8 Street Dance.

How will this term's content help with future learning?

This unit prepares students for GCSE Dance by developing:

- Advanced performance quality.
- Stylistic interpretation.
- Characterisation.
- Narrative through movement.
- Independent choreography.
- Critical appreciation.
- Technical vocabulary.
- Reflective practice.
- Rehearsal discipline.
- Performance confidence.

Students become increasingly independent performers capable of analysing professional works and refining choreography through evaluation and feedback.

Common Misconceptions

Students often believe:

- Performance quality is simply smiling or using facial expressions.
- Technical accuracy is more important than communicating meaning.

- Professional choreography is learned without rehearsal.
- Characterisation only belongs in drama.
- Choreography is simply arranging movements rather than communicating ideas and emotions.

These misconceptions are addressed through retrieval practice, professional performance analysis, teacher modelling, choreography tasks and structured peer and self-evaluation.

National Curriculum / Specification

Students continue to meet the KS3 National Curriculum by:

- Performing dances using increasingly advanced techniques with confidence and control.
- Creating increasingly sophisticated choreography.
- Analysing and improving performances.
- Applying technical and expressive skills effectively.
- Working collaboratively whilst demonstrating leadership.
- Appreciating influential performers and their contribution to dance.
- Developing physically active and healthy lifestyles through sustained practical activity.

Unit 2 Topic Title: ZooNation – Hip Hop Dance, Characterisation and Storytelling

Learning Objectives

Students explore Hip Hop dance through the work of ZooNation Dance Company and *The Mad Hatter's Tea Party* from *Some Like It Hip Hop*. They investigate the origins of Hip Hop culture alongside developing technical dance skills, creativity and performance quality. Students learn professional choreography before independently creating movement inspired by narrative, character and emotion. Through rehearsal, retrieval practice and performance evaluation, students develop advanced choreographic understanding, technical confidence and critical appreciation whilst preparing for GCSE Dance performance, choreography and appreciation components.

Students will develop:

- Advanced Hip Hop technique.
- Stylistic performance.
- Characterisation and storytelling.
- Creative choreography.
- Musicality, rhythm and dynamics.
- Leadership and teamwork.
- Dance analysis and evaluation.
- Cultural understanding of Hip Hop as a global art form.

What previous knowledge is required?

Students should already be able to:

- Perform confidently with technical accuracy.
- Demonstrate expressive performance qualities.
- Apply a range of choreographic devices independently.
- Analyse and evaluate performances using dance terminology.
- Understand narrative and characterisation through movement.
- Work collaboratively and lead rehearsal activities.
- Apply feedback to improve performance quality.

This knowledge has been developed progressively through Capoeira, Thriller, Diversity Street Dance and Beat It.

How will this term's content help with future learning?

This unit provides direct preparation for GCSE Dance by developing:

- Appreciation of professional dance works.
- Understanding of dance history and practitioners.
- Advanced choreography.
- Performance under assessment conditions.
- Technical accuracy.

- Independent rehearsal skills.
- Critical evaluation.
- Cultural awareness.
- Creative decision-making.

Students leave Key Stage 3 with secure practical, theoretical and evaluative knowledge ready for further study in Dance or Performing Arts.

Common Misconceptions

Students often believe:

- Hip Hop is simply freestyle with no technical foundations.
- Storytelling is only achieved through facial expression.
- Professional choreography is created spontaneously.
- All Hip Hop styles are identical.
- Strong performers do not need rehearsal or evaluation.

These misconceptions are addressed through professional performance analysis, retrieval quizzes, questioning, practical exploration and reflective evaluation.

National Curriculum / Specification

Students continue to fulfil the KS3 National Curriculum by:

- Performing increasingly complex dance techniques.
- Demonstrating competence and confidence across a broad range of physical activities.
- Creating original choreography using recognised choreographic devices.
- Analysing, evaluating and improving performance.
- Demonstrating creativity, resilience and collaboration.
- Appreciating professional dance companies and cultural traditions.
- Leading healthy, physically active lifestyles.