

Berwick College Dance Academy

Providing pathways in the Arts



BCDA Information Pack - 2022

[Application](#) form via Google Forms



Berwick College Dance Academy

Principal's note

Berwick College is proud to offer the Berwick College Dance Academy. This focus on Performing Arts has been a proud tradition of this College for many years and the introduction of this program builds on the highly successful 'Berwick to Broadway', 'Born This Way' and 'Once Upon A...', 'Hairspray Jr' and Beauty and the Beast Jnr productions of 2013 - 2018. Our Dance students have regularly featured in the Victorian State Schools Spectacular, an event which showcases Victoria's top talent at Melbourne Arena and is filmed for television broadcast.

Our Dance Studio and Performing Arts Centre is purpose built to suit the delivery of dance, and our dance teachers are highly trained, exceptional teachers.

This selective program caters to young people who have an interest in dance and performing. Students who are lucky enough to be selected will have the opportunity to take part in performances and to develop their skills, compete in competitions and build upon training they may already have.

I warmly welcome all who wish to apply to be a part of next year's Berwick College Dance Academy.

"If you look at a dancer in silence, his or her body will be the music. If you turn the music on, that body will become an extension of what you're hearing." — Judith Jamison, *Dancing Spirit: An Autobiography*

Ms Kerri Bolch
Principal



Background Information

The Berwick College Dance Academy (BCDA) is situated in the outer Melbourne metropolitan suburb of Berwick, which is also home to the College's 170 seat Performing Arts Centre. Until recently, it was the largest single campus government secondary college in Victoria. The school consists of approximately 1600 students and 200 teachers, principals and support staff.

At Berwick College we aim to provide a learning community through:

EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING: Berwick College fosters the pursuit of knowledge and skills. We strive to do our best, we consider new ideas and encourage best practice, and we select our learning opportunities.

RICH AND VARIED PATHWAYS: Berwick College aims to prepare each person for diverse pathway choices and to make a successful transition into further education, training and employment.

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS: Berwick College uses democratic processes in its decision making and promotes social justice and equality of opportunity. We treat others with consideration and understanding, we are truthful and trustworthy, and we work with others.

PERSONAL GROWTH: Berwick College values the unique qualities of each person and accepts their worth as individuals. We meet our expectations, we are accountable for our actions and we work with effort, energy and persistence.

Our Values - ICARE

At Berwick College we are implementing School Wide Positive Behaviour Support within our school. This form of behaviour management varies from many historical behaviour management plans in that School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) operates on the premise that as well as being learners of Literacy and Numeracy, children are also learners of behaviour. Under this model, it is the role of the teachers (and school community members) to explicitly teach children appropriate behaviours and to set explicit behaviour expectations. The program also recognises that some children are more skilled in this area than others.

Berwick College's ICARE Program: Our school community has identified and defined our five school values: (Inquiry – Our Learning, Cooperation – Our Community, Achievement – Our Growth, Resilience – Our Character, Empathy – Our Awareness).

To support the implementation of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support we will collaboratively develop a collection of sample lesson plans for teaching the different behaviour expectations around the five values. We use data and feedback to plan our School Wide Positive Behaviour Teaching Program and the areas of the focus for different times of the year. Teachers will use SWPBS explicit lessons in unison with the Respectful Relationships program, to focus on the interpersonal and emotional skills that ensure student success.

What is the BCDA?

The Berwick College Dance Academy (BCDA) commenced in 2015 and is a full-time academic and dance program, which will link students' educational pursuits with their performing arts interests. The program caters for passionate and aspiring artists, increases student engagement and improves student outcomes. It is designed to prepare students for VCE Dance, VET Dance and Theatre Studies, as well as the world of professional dance.

The program caters for many styles of dance including Classical Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz, Tap, Musical Theatre and Hip-hop as well as options to undertake Music and Drama. Students will also study a range of core subjects that include Mathematics, English, Humanities, Physical Education, Science and LOTE.

The BCDA has a focus on individual pathways, 21st century learning and the creation of a professional resume and portfolio (VET Dance). As well as learning from industry experts at the College, students will engage in an extensive dance program, including professional workshops, excursions and incursions, and performances within the College as well as in the local and wider community. Each and every student will be provided with a rich and meaningful experience that aims to excite and motivate students to reach their creative potential.



The BCDA's Focus

The BCDA aims to provide an integrated academic pathway driven by young students' dance and performing arts aspirations.

This elite program allows young students to enhance and develop their dancing talent while concurrently receiving their secondary education. It is crucial to the BCDA that students' academic pursuits are of the highest priority and that each student's interest and aspiration in dance assists them in achieving high results both academically and within dance. This course isn't just creating pathways for professional dancers; together we are creating individual pathways for dancers, choreographers, lighting technicians, sound engineers, set designers, costume designers, actors, singers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, nutritionists and many more.

The BCDA's Commitment

- Providing strong pastoral care for all students
- Constant monitoring of academic performance and achievements
- Providing a unique, high quality specialised dance program, allowing students to reach their full potential in their selected area of dance
- Encouraging imagination and creativity
- Creating skills within students to provide unique opportunities aimed at future employment
- Use of reflective practice
- Making increased use of national and local arts resources
- Embracing challenge, innovation and change

The BCDA's Student Commitment

Successful applicants will be required to sign a **BCDA contract** which outlines their commitment to the academy. *This can be viewed on the College website.* Students will be required to attend minimal rehearsals outside of school hours, however, to ensure students are able to fit in all core subjects, Period Zero classes will be running for some academy classes. A Period Zero class commences at 8am and concludes at 8:50am. Students will be required to travel on a weekend in May/June to a dance competition. If they progress through the competition staff will decide whether to continue to travel to further competitions, which may include interstate travel. It is also compulsory for BCDA students to enter an item into the annual Berwick College Choreographic Competition which is held on a Sunday in May. The contract will also outline that if academic achievement in all core subjects is not at a satisfactory level, students will be placed on a warning and if there is no improvement students may be asked to exit the BCDA.

For a copy of the BCDA contract please email Melissa.Quenette@education.vic.gov.au

BCDA's Classroom

Our facilities at Berwick College allow for a safe dance environment with appropriate flooring and amenities.

Our classroom will include:

- Inspiration from a broad range of sources, including dance styles from different cultures
- Offering unique opportunities in the Arts and historical contexts
- Opportunities to transfer skills, knowledge and understanding from the classroom into the workplace and the broader community
- Self and peer evaluations where students regularly review and amend their work opportunities to explore and develop knowledge of local and global values
- Opportunities to work in diverse teams within and beyond the school
- Challenging tasks that allow students to create, justify and reflect on their learning
- Encouragement for students to be independent in the completion of tasks
- Investigations and inquiries that require sustained thinking and deep understanding
- Safe dance practice



Curriculum Guide

Structure of Year 7 Dance Course

Students are introduced to a variety of dance styles as well as exploring the history of dance. A large focus is given to jazz technique and terminology, with students forced to step outside of their comfort zone in a safe and supportive environment. Students explore musical theatre and attend a live performance which introduces them to performance analysis and different forms of choreography. Students work towards completing a learnt group dance which promotes teamwork, performance enhancing skills and the ability to work with a variety of choreographers. Students also participate in a choreographic competition where they can demonstrate their own creativity.

Units of Work

Health and Wellbeing (Nutrition and Safe Dance Practice)
Dance Analysis (Movement Categories and Production Elements)
Learnt Group Dance (Dance Competition and BCDA Production)
Own Choreography (Dance Elements and Body Actions)
Dance Style Exploration (Semester One: Jazz/Hip Hop, Contemporary/Lyrical & Ballet Theory. Semester Two: Musical Theatre/Tap, Cultural Dance & Cultural Dance Theory)

Structure of Year 8 Dance Course

Students continue to develop their technique and develop an understanding of anatomy, safe dance practice as well as an introduction to the elements of dance. Students begin to understand the principles of choreography through structured improvisation and through their own routines. Students are encouraged to challenge their modern dance experiences with traditional styles and choreographers.

Units of Work

Health and Wellbeing (Body Image and Social Media Influences)
Dance Analysis (Time/Space/Energy and Production Elements)
Learnt Group Dance (Dance Competition and BCDA Production)
Own Choreography (Dance Elements)
Dance Style Exploration (Semester One: Jazz/Hip Hop, Contemporary/Lyrical & Ballet Theory. Semester Two: Musical Theatre/Tap, Cultural Dance & Cultural Dance Theory)

Structure of Year 9 Dance Course

Students analyse the choreographer's use of the elements of dance, choreographic devices and production elements to communicate choreographic intent in dances they make, perform and view. They evaluate the impact of dance from different cultures, places and times on Australian dance. Students choreograph dances by manipulating and combining the elements of dance, choreographic devices, form and production elements to communicate their choreographic intent. They choreograph, rehearse and perform dances, demonstrating technical and expressive skills appropriate to the genre and style.

Units of Work

Learnt Group Dance (teacher choreographed)
Student Choreographed Dance (Elements of Dance, Choreographic Devices, Group Structures & Qualities of Movement)
Dance Analysis (Own choreography and professional performance)
Technique Development (Semester One: Jazz/Hip Hop & Contemporary/Lyrical (Contemporary Theory). Semester Two: Cultural Dance & Cultural Dance Theory).

For further information on junior dance please contact Melissa Quenette on (03) 8768 1000 or Melissa.Quenette@education.vic.gov.au

Structure of VET Dance course – Certificate II in Dance CUA20113

The VET Dance course is a two year full-time certificate course that prepares students for further tertiary training as a dance teacher, performer or choreographer in the performance industry. Throughout the course, students spend time both within the classroom and in the dance industry, acquiring and developing the skills, knowledge and confidence to work in a range of areas within the performing arts industry. Upon successful completion of the course, students receive a Certificate II in Dance Training, a study score which contributes to their VCE ATAR and numerous connections within the industry. All classes are in the school timetable. The main point of difference between the VET course and the VCE course is that industry professionals choreograph the VET dances and not the students themselves.

Students will explore dance styles such as: Contemporary, Jazz and/or Hip hop, Ballet, Tap

Contribution to VCE/VCAL

Students undertaking the VCE VET Dance qualification are eligible for up to four units at Unit 1 and 2 level and two units at Unit 3 and 4 level. Students may accumulate VCE VET units over more than one year. Students who complete the Unit 3 and 4 sequence of VCE VET Dance (which includes a performance examination) as a scored assessment are eligible to receive a study score that contributes directly to their ATAR.

Possible Pathways: Certificate III in Dance, Certificate IV in Dance, Diploma of Dance (Elite Performance), Advanced Diploma of Dance (Elite Performance)

Assessments

Core Units covered include:

1st Year

- Work effectively with others
- Develop basic dance techniques
- Follow basic safe dance practices
- Develop a basic level of physical condition for dance performances

2nd Year

- Prepare self for performance
- Develop audition techniques
- Incorporate artistic expression into basic dance performance
- Develop and apply creative arts industry knowledge

Each year students select two elective styles they'd like to explore out of the following:

- Jazz
- Contemporary
- Ballet
- Street
- Tap

Units of competency are subject to change.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact Amy Pyke on 8768 1000 or Amy.Pyke@education.vic.gov.au , or visit the VCAA website.



Structure of VCE Dance Course

VCE Dance provides opportunities for students to explore the potential of movement as a means of creative expression and communication. In VCE Dance students create and perform their own dance works as well as studying the dance works of others through performance and analysis. In each unit, students undertake regular and systematic dance training to develop their physical skills and advance their ability to execute a diverse range of expressive movements. Students also develop and refine their choreographic skills by exploring personal and learnt movement vocabularies. They study ways other choreographers have created and arranged movement to communicate an intention and create their own dance works. Students perform learnt solo and group dance works and their own works. They also analyse ways that ideas are communicated through dance and how dance styles, traditions and works can influence dance practice, the arts, artists and society in general.

Assessments:

Unit 1 & 2

Dance Perspectives
 Choreography and Performance based
 Dance Technique and Performance
 Awareness and maintenance of The Dancer's body

Unit 3 & 4

Dance Perspectives
 Choreography, performance and analysis of a skills-solo dance work
 Choreography, performance & dance-making analysis
 Dance technique, performance & analysis of a learnt dance work
 Choreography, performance & dance-making analysis

Contributions to students' study scores in VCE Dance in **Units 3 & 4** are as follows:

- **School-assessed Coursework:** 25 per cent
- **End-of-year performance examination** (two self- choreographed solos): 50 per cent
- **End-of-year written examination:** 25 per cent

This study offers a number of opportunities for students to develop employability skills.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact Julie Wotherspoon on 8768 1000 or Julie.Wotherspoon@education.vic.gov.au, or visit the VCAA website



BCDA Course Fees

Year 7 - 9	VET 1 & 2 / VET 3 & 4	VCE Units 1 & 2 / 3 & 4
\$600 per year	\$400 per year	\$250 per year
Inclusions: BCDA dance top BCDA jacket (Year 7s only) Competition entry fee (<i>Troupes only, does not include compulsory Nationals' fee</i>) Professional workshops (on and off-site) Costuming for performances Professional performance excursion (transport not included) Classroom materials and equipment Choreographers	Inclusions: BCDA VET/VCE dance top Top Class Excursion Industry Days: The Space, Transit, Spectrum and/or Patrick Studios Sydney Dance Company Performance Industry Mock Auditions External Choreographers/Workshops Dance Physio visit Competition entry fee VET 1/2 (<i>Troupes only, does not include compulsory Nationals' fee</i>)	Inclusions: BCDA VET/VCE dance top Top Class Excursion Professional Technique Classes Professional Composition Workshops/Classes Sydney Dance Company Dance Physio Visit Interschool Workshops Competition entry fee (<i>Troupes only, does not include compulsory Nationals' fee</i>)
Fees are subject to change	Fees are subject to change	Fees are subject to change
<p>Note: <i>There is no textbook required at Years 7 - 9. Some students may have additional costs if they are successful competition winners and are required to compete interstate. This will be decided by the parents should this situation arise. Typically this cost is approximately \$600 for flights and accommodation. Most years we apply for the State School Spectacular and as such may or may not participate in the event. We have participated since 2016 however only 16 positions are available. Auditions will be held for positions and will be at a cost of approximately \$100 per student. This includes transport, VSSS t-shirt and supervision for all rehearsals. There will be a \$5 entry fee per item for the College's choreographic competition</i></p>		



Uniform

Berwick College takes pride in the appearance of our students and therefore it is part of our policy that all students must be in full school uniform at all times, including the Berwick College Dance Academy students.

The uniform should be worn correctly, neatly and in clean condition. All students from Years 7 - 12 are expected to wear full school uniform. Uniform is to be worn from the time the student leaves home to the time the student returns home.

Students are not permitted to arrive at, or leave school, in their dance clothes. They must always change into full school uniform. During dance classes students are expected to wear a BCDA top along with black tight pants/leggings or shorts (not tracksuit pants). If no BCDA top is available, students will need to wear a form fitting black top or leotard. Hair is to be tied up and no gum is permitted. Students need to be wearing appropriate dance shoes, but will be asked to remove socks as they are a safety hazard. Students may wear warmer clothing for warm up and cool down. Students will miss out on excursions and workshops if they are out of uniform. Changing rooms are provided in the Performing Arts Centre. Students **must** arrive already changed for the commencement of class which means they will get changed at the end of recess or lunch.

Dance Bags

If students require a separate bag for dance this should be kept at a small size to fit in the student's allocated locker. Bags are **not** to be taken to classes other than dance. If a student's dance bag does not fit in their locker they are able to leave it in the Performing Arts Centre before school but will not gain access to it until 10 minutes before their dance class.



BCDA Uniform List

Compulsory

BCDA top

Black fitted shorts

Black full length leggings or $\frac{3}{4}$ length leggings

Convertible tights (pink and tan)

Foot undies/Dance paws

Tan jazz shoes (students may need black for performances)

*Families will be notified in advance prior to each term outlining what shoes will be required.

Students enrolled in the BCDA are able to purchase the school jacket with the BCDA logo on it from Noone Imagewear in Beaconsfield. Jackets are provided for **Year 7 students only** as part of the course fee. If current students are needing a new jacket this can be ordered through Noone Imagewear. The BCDA dance top will be provided by the academy.

Please note that students are to wear the BCDA jacket to and from competitions, performances and excursions. Dance wear and shoes are at the cost of the student however the BCDA top is included in the course fee. If these items are lost, damaged or outgrown replacement uniforms are at the cost of the family. The BCDA will do a bulk top and jacket order midway through each year if students wish to purchase new items.

Additional uniform items can be purchased at:

Noone Beaconsfield Menswear and Schoolwear

Beaconsfield Hub - Shop 4

52-62 Old Princes Hwy

Beaconsfield Vic 3807

Energetiks Fountain Gate – BCDA member discount

Shop 1174 Westfield Fountain Gate Shopping Centre

352 Princes Hwy Narre Warren VIC 3805 Ph: (03) 9704 1655



Extra Activities

Berwick College Choreographic Competition

Berwick College's annual Choreographic Competition is held in May at the Berwick College Performing Arts Centre and adjudicated by an industry professional external to the College. This dance competition is open to all Berwick College students from Year 7 to Year 12. Students will be required to choreograph **their own** routines and can enter as many items as they like. It is compulsory for all BCDA students to enter a minimum of one item which can include a duo, trio or troupe.

National Dance Competition

Every second year the BCDA competes in the DanceLife Unite Competition which gives students the opportunity to attend Sydney in September/October to compete at a national level, if successful at the state level. Each year level will enter a troupe. The cost of entry and costumes are covered in the course fee for troupes. If students make it to Nationals there will be an approximate cost of \$550 per student for flights and accommodation.

Victorian State School Spectacular

The Spectacular includes a cast of 3000 Victorian government school students, working towards a common goal in a collaborative, competition-free environment. Its dual aim is to provide an invaluable performing arts opportunity and to showcase the enormous talent that exists in our schools. This all comes together in a 2-3 hour scripted show that celebrates a diversity of performance mediums, including choir, dance, vocal, drama and orchestra. Students who participate in the Victorian State Schools Spectacular are provided with a unique opportunity to work with internationally renowned industry professionals across all disciplines, as well as the amazing experience of performing live in front of thousands of people. Since 2016, the BCDA has been represented in mass dance, ensemble dance and principal dance as well as having a featured troupe on the main stage.



New York Dance Study Tour

In 2018 we held our first BCDA overseas study tour to New York City which was a huge success. Over the last week of Term 2 and the first week of the holidays 22 students and three teachers travelled to New York. Whilst there, students saw the sights, toured theatres and performing arts centres, as well as participating in many dance classes at famous dance schools. They were also fortunate enough to see 'School of Rock' and 'Aladdin' on Broadway!

This trip is only open to BCDA students in Year 9 and up and will run every two years depending on numbers. Depending on the itinerary and exchange rate the study tour costs approximately \$5000 per student.

The tour includes Broadway musicals, workshops at Alvin Ailey, Steps on Broadway, Broadway Dance Centre and the American Ballet and tours of Lincoln Centre and Radio City.



Frequently Asked Questions:

Does my child need to dance outside of the school if they are enrolled in the BCDA or if they want to audition?

Students are strongly encouraged to dance outside of school to further enhance their skills. However, it is not a requirement for the student to be enrolled in a dance school.

What if my child cannot attend rehearsals, competitions or assessments?

Students and parents are given a document of important dates at the commencement of each year with the expectation that all students will attend proposed dates. If students cannot commit to a date, parents AND students are to communicate this with their teacher as soon as possible. Students may be penalised if assessments are missed without prior warning.

Can my child still audition if they cannot attend the audition dates?

Yes. Parents must contact Melissa Quenette to arrange a private audition at a convenient time.

Once my child is enrolled in the BCDA, will they have to re-enrol each year?

If the student is progressing well in the program the student will automatically be placed in the following year's program. However, if a student has not met all requirements and assessments and is not progressing they will be required to sit a parent and teacher meeting to discuss their placement.

Is there a cap on enrolment numbers?

Yes, there is a cap on numbers. Each class will have a maximum of 25 students from Year 7 – 12.

Can my child be involved in the High Achievers' Program and the BCDA?

Due to timetabling constraints students are unable to be enrolled in both programs at Year 7 and 8. Students can enter the BCDA if they have successfully passed an audition in Year 9.

If a sibling is already in the program does that give my other child a better chance?

Every student is given equal opportunity. No preference is given to siblings of current/past students.

Can we still apply if we are out of zone?

You are still able to apply for this specialised program if you are out of the Berwick College Zone as this type of program is not offered by schools in the local area. Please contact the College should you need further information.

Enrolment Process for Grade 6 (2021) Students

To be considered for the BCDA parents must nominate **Berwick College** as their **number one preference** when enrolling for prospective secondary schools and complete our application [form](#).

In July, BCDA applicants will be notified of their **provisional entry** into the academy but will not receive full confirmation until August when Victorian secondary schools send out official confirmation of placements.

For further information on this process please contact:

Michelle Lewis *Junior School Leader*

(03) 8768 1079

Michelle.Lewis@education.vic.gov.au

Enrolment Process for Year 7 - 12 (2022) Students

If students are already enrolled in the academy they will not need to re-enrol providing they have successfully passed the year. To be considered for the BCDA, students who are already enrolled at Berwick College, and those who are not, must complete the **provisional [application google form](#) before 7th of May** and attend an audition. If successful, students will be contacted with further enrolment details.



Selection Criteria

The BCDA would like to encourage any student who believes they meet the selection criteria to apply. Please note that it is a possibility that not all applicants will be accepted.

The following criteria will be applied to **all** applications:

- Highly developed artistic ability in at least one style of dance
- Highly developed technique, flexibility and knowledge of dance terminology
- Demonstration of a positive attitude and commitment to academic study
- Demonstration of a positive attitude and commitment to the development of skills in their chosen artistic field
- A strong desire to pursue their passion for the arts
- A high level of commitment and motivation in pursuit of personal success

Note: Upon receiving the application, parents and students will be contacted to book an audition time.

If you would like to apply please submit the BCDA online application form by clicking this [link](#) or visiting the Berwick College website.

Please contact the College if you need assistance in completing the online form.

You will also need to email the following to enrolments@berwickcollege.vic.edu.au

- A copy of the student's **last two** reports
- Details of competitions, awards or productions the student has participated in/received
- A 100 word report, written by the student, detailing why he/she would like to be a part of the program



APPLICATIONS DUE BY 7TH OF MAY 2021

Contacts:

Director of Dance Year 7-9
Melissa Quenette (03) 8768 1000 or
Melissa.Quenette@education.vic.gov.au

Director of Dance Year 10-12
Amy Pyke (03) 8768 1000 or
Amy.Pyke@education.vic.gov.au

Assistant Principal
James Doble (03) 8768 1000 or
James.Doble@education.vic.gov.au

Stay Informed

The College newsletter is published regularly via the College website
<http://www.berwickcollege.vic.edu.au/>

