

# Raising aspirations – Dance

At Ormiston Bushfield Academy, we believe every student should have the opportunity to explore, create, and excel in Dance. This page offers a carefully selected range of books, websites, and podcasts designed to ignite your creativity, deepen your understanding of the art form, and open your eyes to the many pathways Dance can offer.

Whether you're searching for your next source of inspiration, a new technical or creative challenge, or a glimpse into the world of professional dancers and choreographers, you'll find something here to spark your ambition and raise your aspirations as a developing artist.

## Suggested Reading list

### KS3 (years 7-9)

***The Maddie Diaries: A Memoir* – Maddie Ziegler:** A highly readable memoir from a young dancer who rose to fame through *Dance Moms* and Sia's music videos. Students often connect strongly with Maddie's journey, challenges, and motivation.

***Mao's Last Dancer* – Li Cunxin:** A powerful memoir by Li Cunxin, charting his journey from rural China to international ballet stardom. It gives a compelling real-life view of rigorous training, resilience, and artistic ambition.

***Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina* – Michaela DePrince:** A powerful true story following Michela DePrince's journey from an orphanage in Sierra Leone to becoming a world-class ballerina.

### KS4/5 (years 10-13)

***Choreography: Creating and Developing Dance for Performance* – Kate Flatt:** One of the strongest, most accessible guides for students beginning to develop their own work.

***The Contemporary Choreographer's Handbook* – Nardi Simpson:** A practical guide to creating compelling, audience-focused choreography.

***Dance Pedagogy* – Amanda Clark:** This text provides deeper understanding of movement analysis to help with written exams.

## Websites

**Study Rocket – Free AQA GCSE Dance Revision:** [Free GCSE Dance AQA Revision Content – Study Rocket](#)

**Brainscape – GCSE Dance Flashcards:** [Gcse Dance Flashcards & Quizzes](#)

**One Dance UK – Careers Hub:** [One Dance UK | A Guide to Careers in Dance](#)

## Podcasts

**Why Dance Matters (Royal Academy of Dance)** – a series of interviews with choreographers and dancers on the importance of dance.

**National Theatre: How to get a job in the arts** - [How to get a career in the arts | with the National Theatre | Prospects.ac.uk](#)