

THE ARTS EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS, LONDON SIXTH FORM

CURRICULUM POLICY

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Arts Educational Sixth Form is a vocational performing arts school committed to developing the talents of its students both academically and vocationally to the highest possible level. Both facets of the education provided bear equal importance, and the school's aspiration is to produce highly qualified, thoughtful, interesting and interested young people who have developed their performing talents to such a degree that they are able to continue in vocational training if they so wish.

The following information relates to the Curriculum Offer for 2017–2018. As a Sixth Form we are always reviewing and working to improve our offer in light of student interests. Therefore, the curriculum for future years cannot be guaranteed to be the same as this one. Subject matter will be appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of the students, including those with EHC (educational health care) Plans.

Once a year (Normally during the Summer Term) we suspend the timetable to deliver an Enrichment Programme across the whole school with an agreed focus. Students have the chance to take part in a variety of tailor-made activities, with a strong SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) focus.

Our curriculum at Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13)

The ArtsEd Sixth Form curriculum aims to provide our students with an inspiring and challenging education, specialising in the creative and performing arts. We aim to enhance and refine the skills students bring from GCSE while offering high-level training in the arts. We expect our students to engage fully in their education and provide for them a strong academic and vocational base from which they can forge independent career and study paths. Our students are as likely to be offered university places as they are to be offered performance-based training and, as such, we aim to offer a curriculum that is both academically rigorous and vocationally challenging.

We aspire for our students to be interested in learning as well as in developing their own informed thoughts and ideas. Staff discuss their subjects regularly with each other and are therefore able to create cross-curriculum links for students. Students are encouraged to see their subjects as part of life and are repeatedly and actively encouraged to see as many plays, dance performances, exhibitions and platform discussions as possible.

Our academic and vocational offers are supported by a strong pastoral philosophy and PSHEE programme. This endeavours to empower students to be confident, safe and resilient individuals, with the inter-personal and critical thinking skills required for success in the wider community.

We expect our students to demonstrate passion and commitment to the worlds of the creative and performing arts. Students may choose to follow either the A Level pathway or the BTEC Performing Arts (Musical Theatre, Acting, Production Arts or Dance) pathway. Those with a passion for dance on either course may be considered for the Dance stream.

Students in Years 12 and 13 may be left on their own at times, e.g. when they are working on devised pieces/own choreography, independent study. In all cases, it is made clear to the students that a responsible adult can be readily contacted if needed.

A Level subjects offered

The subjects offered at A Level are:

Art, Dance, Drama, English Literature, French, History, Film Studies, History of Art, Mathematics, Music and Photography.

A Level pathway

Students who select this course choose to study **three or four** subjects **at A Level**. The majority of our students will choose either Dance or Drama as one of these subjects. Students are encouraged to select subjects that offer them a balanced A Level range. If the **A Level is split between AS and A2**, progressing into A2 is not guaranteed, and is dependent on a student's results at the end of AS. Some students will continue to study their original four subjects at A2 Level, while others may choose to focus their energies on three subjects, perhaps selecting another subject from the list to study at AS Level, **subject to their timetable and the configuration of the option blocks**. **All students are required to continue to study three A Levels in Year 13.**

BTEC Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (Dance/Acting/Production Arts/Musical Theatre)

The BTEC Extended Diploma in Performing Arts is a two-year course that provides students, upon completion, with a qualification equivalent to three A Levels. The course is assessed continuously, with students undertaking classes in Acting, Jazz Dance, Ballet, Sound and Lighting, and Singing by means of various assignments. Evidence for learning is provided by the students' log books, and by practical performance. Students will provide coursework that reflects an understanding of the historical context of their work, and shows an ability to research and develop their own ideas. The BTEC produces students who are fully rounded individuals, being practitioners in their own right and confident and knowledgeable **individuals**. There will be an opportunity for students to study an additional A Level subject. Students might be encouraged to consider subjects not included as part of the BTEC, such as English, **Film** Studies and Art.

Key Stage 5 Dance stream

The Dance stream is aimed at students who show potential in dance and are interested in pursuing dance **further**. The course will include classes in Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary and ISTD Modern, and exceptional students may also be invited to attend Classical Variations classes and additional tap classes. Students wishing to pursue this option will need to audition during the Year 12 induction day in July.

Due to the busy nature of the timetable, some of these classes **might** take place at 5:30pm, allowing students time to study during the day. Pursuing the Dance stream will be equivalent in time to doing another A Level. Students may choose to take the Dance stream in place of one A Level subject, although the decision must be made in negotiation with the student, the Director of Sixth Form and the Head of Dance.

Enrichment classes: Two classes per week.

Beyond the examination classes, the school also offers a programme of classes designed to broaden students' experience. During timetabled enrichment lessons, students can choose from a variety of subject options; for example in the past students have taken , Yoga, the ArtsEd Musical Theatre Company, ArtsEd Acting Company, Film Company, Acting for Screen, Script Reading, Silent Study, GCSE Maths, Accent classes, Stage Combat etc. We consider these non-exam classes an important opportunity for students to extend their performance skills and expose them to performance areas they might not have considered otherwise.

Additional Enrichment Opportunities.

There are many extra classes that run outside the curriculum, for which students are welcome to register their interest.

Dance Stream: Additional dance technique classes

ArtsEd Dance Company (By audition)

ISTD Modern and Tap (Lunchtime classes)

Music Peripatetic lessons in instrumental and/or vocal singing (cost not included in school fees)

Language BONUS programme

Sixth Form Choir

The PSHEE programme aims to develop students' critical thinking skills, self-awareness and self-knowledge, as well as their sex and relationships education and study skills; support for higher education applications is also provided. Moreover, once a year (normally during the Summer Term) we suspend the timetable to deliver an Enrichment Programme across the whole school with an agreed focus. Students have the chance to take part in a variety of tailor-made activities with a strong SMSC focus.

What would your **child** be studying if they became a student here?

A detailed breakdown of our Curriculum Offer

In the tables below, contact time refers to **1 hour and 20 minute** lessons.

Due to the nature of the school and our desire to take advantage of both curriculum innovations and the changing expertise of our staff, it is likely that there would be small changes to the nature of the timetable each year. More significant changes would be communicated to existing parents via email and/or letter.

KEY STAGE 5

Three or Four A Level pathway

Subject	Year 12 Number of lessons	Year 13 Number of lessons
A Level 1	4	4
A Level 2	4	4
A Level 3	4	4
A Level 4	4	4 (option to carry on with fourth)
Enrichment	2	2
PSHE	1	1
Tutor Time	1 (split over the week)	1 (split over the week)
Total	20 x 1 hour and 20 minute classes	20 x 1 hour and 20 minute classes
Additional Opportunities		
Choir or Dance Stream	1	1 (optional)
Dance Company	1 (by audition)	1 (by audition)

BTEC Acting Pathway

Subject	Year 12 Number of lessons	Year 13 Number of lessons
BTEC Acting Some examples of units: Performance Workshop Principles of Acting Historical Context Performing To An Audience Movement Skills Performing Arts Business	11	11
A Level 1 (optional)	4	4
A Level 2 (optional)	4 (optional)	4 (optional)
Enrichment	2	2
PSHE	1	1
Tutor Time	1 (split over the week)	1 (split over the week)
Total	23 x 1 hour and 20 minute classes per week	23 x 1 hour and 20 minute classes per week
Additional Opportunities		
Choir or Dance Stream	1	1 (optional)

Dance Company	1 (by audition)	1 (by audition)
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BTEC Musical Theatre

Subject	Year 12 Number of lessons	Year 13 Number of lessons
BTEC Acting Some examples of units: Performance Workshop Musical Theatre Singing Jazz Tap Ballet Historical Context Performing To An Audience Performing Arts Business	11	11
A Level 1 (optional)	4	4
A Level 2 (optional)	4 (optional)	4 (optional)
Enrichment	2	2
PSHE	1	1
Tutor Time	1 (split over the week)	1 (split over the week)
Total	23 x 1 hour and 20 minute classes per week	23 x 1 hour and 20 minute classes per week
Additional Opportunities		
Choir or Dance Stream	1	1 (optional)
Dance Company	1 (by audition)	1 (by audition)

BTEC Dance

Subject	Year 12 Number of lessons	Year 13 Number of lessons
BTEC Acting Some examples of units: Performance Workshop Jazz Tap Ballet International Dance Choreography Healthy Performer Historical Context Performing To An Audience Performing Arts Business	11	11
A Level 1 (optional)	4	4
A Level 2 (optional)	4 (optional)	4 (optional)
Enrichment	2	2
PSHE	1	1
Tutor Time	1 (split over the week)	1 (split over the week)
Total	23 x 1 hour and 20 minute classes per week	23 x 1 hour and 20 minute classes per week
Additional Opportunities		
Choir or Dance Stream	1	1 (optional)
Dance Company	1 (by audition)	1 (by audition)

BTEC Production Arts

Subject	Year 12 Number of lessons	Year 13 Number of lessons
BTEC Acting Some examples of units: Stage Management Set Design Lighting Operation Sound Design Theatre Make Up Costume Construction	11	11
A Level 1 (optional)	4	4
A Level 2 (optional)	4 (optional)	4 (optional)
Enrichment	2	2
PSHE	1	1
Tutor Time	1 (split over the week)	1 (split over the week)
Total	23 x 1 hour and 20 minute classes per week	23 x 1 hour and 20 minute classes per week
Additional Opportunities		
Choir or Dance Stream	1	1 (optional)
Dance Company	1 (by audition)	1 (by audition)

Review of Curriculum Policy

Policy written:	September 2012
Policy written by:	Thamir Elzubaidi/Mark Ferrington
Date policy reviewed by Mark Ferrington:	December 2017
Next review date:	December 2018

Circulated to the Governing body and teaching staff. This policy will be made available to parents and prospective parents on the website and on request.