



Day School Prospectus 2019

ArtsEd

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Welcome



Adrian Blake
Headteacher

I am delighted that you have chosen to find out more about ArtsEd Day School, an exceptional independent school for 11-16 year-olds where pupils immerse themselves in high-calibre academic study whilst developing their talent and passion for performance. Founded 100 years ago by two ground-breaking educationalists, Grace Cone and Olive Ripman, our ethos remains true to their vision, to provide a broad and balanced education stretching pupils to achieve both their academic and artistic potential.

Excellent academic results year-on-year have established ArtsEd as the highest-ranking performing arts school in the UK – consistently sitting in the top five schools and colleges for creative education in the UK (Be Open Foundation 2017).

Our combination of talented teachers meeting talented young minds creates a truly dynamic environment for teaching and learning. Dedicated staff build warm and constructive learning relationships with pupils, creating a strong ethos of nurture and individualism that enables each pupil to flourish as a person, as a learner, and as a performer. Our successful balance of vocational and academic classes instils in our pupils a deep-seated confidence and a broad range of skills, giving them the scope at 16+ to pursue a path that's right for them.

For 100 years, ArtsEd alumni have significantly influenced the creative industries and beyond on a global scale. They include doctors, lawyers and high-flying executives, as well as leading choreographers, directors and producers. Emerging talent in the performing arts includes current Day School pupil Zoe Brough, who was nominated for an Olivier Award for her performance in *The Nether*, and Thomas Dennis who left the Sixth Form for the lead role in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* and who has just completed a run at The National Theatre starring as Albert Nethercott in *War Horse*.

The enthusiasm and expertise of our teachers fuels our pupils' passion for performance and cultivates a zest for learning right across the curriculum. Our outstanding pastoral care and the support and encouragement that pupils give one another makes enjoyment, as much as excellence, part of everyone's day.

Don't take our word for it, come and see for yourself. Come to our Open Evening, book a visit or try us out on a Taster Day.

I very much look forward to meeting you.



Our Ethos

Our focus on nurturing the individual and their unique talents encourages every one of our pupils to flourish.

Exceptional pastoral care combined with expert teaching inspire pupils' confidence, curiosity and commitment to all of their studies, both academic and vocational. Our aim is for every pupil to leave ArtsEd as a creative, articulate and imaginative young adult, assured of their ability to achieve their best in their chosen field.



A standout performing arts school.



[The Stage 2018](#)



ArtsEd is one of the most amazing schools I've ever been to. It's fun, it's creative, it's exciting – every day is a new adventure! We have such a huge range of subjects here, which brings a special spark to every single day!



[Year 10 Pupil](#)



I wanted my daughter to be somewhere where she could continue her academic successes, but in a warm and happy environment that's fun and supportive, and ArtsEd was the answer.



[Parent](#)



Our ethos is underpinned by our **Six Pillars of Excellence:**



Aspiration

"Don't just aim high, aim higher!"

ArtsEd is the best place for any young person with talent and ambition. A recognised award-winning centre of excellence in the performing arts, we have been nurturing creative and talented children since 1919.



Resilience

**"I am not that what has happened to me,
I am that what I choose to become."**

Resilience is such an important quality to develop in the modern world, and especially for anyone considering a career within the performing arts. We aim to develop everyone's ability to 'bounce back' and to stay focused in the face of challenges or disappointment.



Teamwork

**"Alone we can do so little, together we can
achieve so much more"**

In every classroom, studio and theatre space the skills needed for successful teamwork are demonstrated and reinforced allowing for a genuine sense of collaboration to develop. Our community of teachers, parents, students and pupils creates a place of passion and commitment for all to accomplish something incredible.



Self-discipline

"Discipline not desire determines your destiny"

Self-discipline is a key quality we foster, encouraging pupils to develop a range of aptitudes and skills that see them grow as independent, articulate, problem-solvers who are enthusiastic, brave and bold.



Empathy

**"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting
a hard battle"**

ArtsEd's unique success is built on strong pastoral relationships that both support and motivate pupils. We foster individuality and personal growth as much as academic development and create a learning environment that enables pupils to consider and understand situations from another's point of view. Everyone is encouraged to demonstrate respect, understanding, and empathy in all their relationships, by showing tolerance, courtesy and enthusiasm for learning.



Drive

"Your only limit is you"

Appreciating and making the most of every learning opportunity that comes their way is an attribute that lies at the heart of our pupils' success. We enhance this quality by teaching them to celebrate every triumph, instilling an appreciation of the powerful role that personal drive plays in getting things done.

Nurturing Promise



ArtsEd offers pupils a unique opportunity. To fully develop their promise as performers and creatives at the same time as enjoying the challenges of a full academic curriculum.

Our excellent reputation is justified by our consistent position as the most academically successful performing arts school in the UK. At the heart of this success lies the powerful combination of exceptional pastoral care, vocational training delivered by experts in their field and an extensive academic curriculum.

Pupils spend between 25-30% of their curriculum time on their chosen vocational training, enrolling on either the Dance or Acting Course when they arrive. Academic studies take up the remainder of the timetable with everyone enjoying lessons in English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Music, French and Art as well as following the Citizenship and PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health, Economic Education) programme.

Pastoral Care

Our pastoral team is dedicated to supporting the well-being and development of each pupil as they progress through the school.

Tutor groups are a focal point of life at ArtsEd, meeting at least three times a day. Teachers and pupils spend the time planning homework, discussing current affairs and working through the PSHEE programme. Designed to encourage independence and develop emotional intelligence, PSHEE sessions equip young people with practical skills and knowledge that help them to manage their lives, now and in the future. In Years 10 and 11 this time is also used to discuss Further Education options. Guest speakers are regularly invited to come in and talk about specialist subjects.

An important aspect of tutor group time is the opportunity for pupils to talk through their day with a teacher. Challenges and opportunities, big and small, are discussed as and when they arise, and time is taken to think how to approach them. The supportive nature of these sessions inspires friendships amongst the pupils, as well as warm and constructive relationships between teachers and pupils.

Small class sizes in every subject mean high levels of attention and teacher input for all pupils and ability levels, enabling confidence and enthusiasm to thrive right across the curriculum.

● ●
I've been really impressed with the pastoral care here, and the guidance the pupils have been given around e-security and how to stay safe online. The teachers are great at keeping us updated on any challenges our young people might be facing.

● ●
Year 8 Parent



Vocational Curriculum

Expert tutors, many with industry experience, encourage and support pupils to realise their full potential in Dance, Drama and Music. Pupils develop their individual talents as well as gaining essential team working skills through ensemble work, emerging as self-assured and poised performers.

Dance

Our dance tutors combine teaching expertise with extensive performance experience. This combination ensures that pupils not only master the techniques of their chosen art-form but are also encouraged to develop their versatility and individuality.

Classical Ballet sits at the heart of our Dance course, enhanced with classes in Modern, Tap, Contemporary and Choreography in Years 7 and 8. GCSE Dance is introduced in Year 9 and in Year 10 the course is expanded to include Jazz.

Pupils take Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) and Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance (ISTD) examinations. In addition to acquiring the skills required for each dance form, they are encouraged to develop their analytical skills and to use dance terminology with confidence.

Every year there are opportunities to perform in large-scale productions, including our annual Dance Show, the Evening of Dance, and the Choreographic Platform.

Regular theatre visits inspire pupils' performances, encouraging them to see their training within the context of the professional dance world.

ArtsEd Youth Dance Company

ArtsEd Youth Dance Company is an extra-curricular class for dancers in years 10 to 13. Entry is by audition and participants experience the excitement and challenges of performing as a member of a contemporary dance company. Pupils learn repertoire and work with guest choreographers to prepare for performances at prestigious venues.

Recent venues have included the Royal Albert Hall, The Place, Trinity Laban and Sadlers Wells, the home of dance in the UK.



Drama

Our Drama Course is both creatively fulfilling and intellectually demanding. Pupils develop their individual performance skills alongside invaluable literacy and communication skills. At the same time, they broaden their knowledge of culture and society and their understanding of successful teamwork.

In Year 9, pupils start working towards their GCSE, building on the many disciplines developed in Years 7 and 8.

They experiment with physical and expressionistic theatre, stylised and abstract work, naturalism, comedy, musical theatre, text and off-text work, as well as devising and creating their own pieces. There is a significant amount of written work, which is well balanced by the practical elements.

There are numerous opportunities for pupils to perform including our own Pupils Showcase and the ISA Drama Festival.



Music

All our pupils engage in a wide variety of musical activities that enrich their creativity. Our highly experienced teachers develop each pupil's passion for music, nurturing talent and fostering individuality.

Pupils are encouraged to explore a range of musical styles whilst regular workshops and performance opportunities inspire them to develop their technique and extend their repertoire. Music theory lessons provide a solid foundation that allows composition skills to flourish. Singing, percussion and keyboards are all used alongside digital technology, including Apple Macs with full access to Logic Pro X and Sibelius.

Additional vocal and instrumental tuition is provided by our pool of talented professional musicians who delight in sharing their passion and expertise. Pupils benefit hugely from the opportunity to work on a one-to-one basis and these weekly lessons are highly subscribed.

All pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 sing as part of a choir, as do pupils who choose to study GCSE Music. Performances from the choirs are a highlight of our annual Music Concert. Other performance opportunities include the acoustic 'Live Lounge'.





Employers are looking for good people skills, the ability to work as a team and to present themselves confidently. This is why arts subjects are so important - they give children the skills they need to succeed later on in life.



[Parent](#)

Visual Arts

Our Visual Arts department encourages experimentation, inventiveness and ambition. Pupils explore a broad range of approaches and working practices and are encouraged to be creatively bold. In Years 7 and 8 pupils enjoy an art lesson every week, equipping them with the knowledge and enthusiasm to choose a specialism for GCSE from our offer of Art & Design, Photography or Film Studies.

Art & Design

Drawing, painting and printmaking form the foundation of the Art & Design GCSE. Pupils are challenged to consider the inspiration and context behind their own work, at the same time as developing their creative practice.

Photography

During their GCSE studies, pupils respond to a set theme, exploring portraiture and landscape work and developing their knowledge of composition alongside their technical skills.

Film Studies

GCSE Film Studies offers a thorough grounding in the theory of film as well as giving pupils the opportunity to showcase a variety of skills in the production of their own short films. Pupils enjoy exploring a diverse range of critically acclaimed films on a course that is creative, practical and inspiring.





Academic Curriculum

Our academic curriculum is rich and varied. Expert teachers create a nurturing and stimulating learning environment which engages pupils academically, intellectually and creatively.

Maths

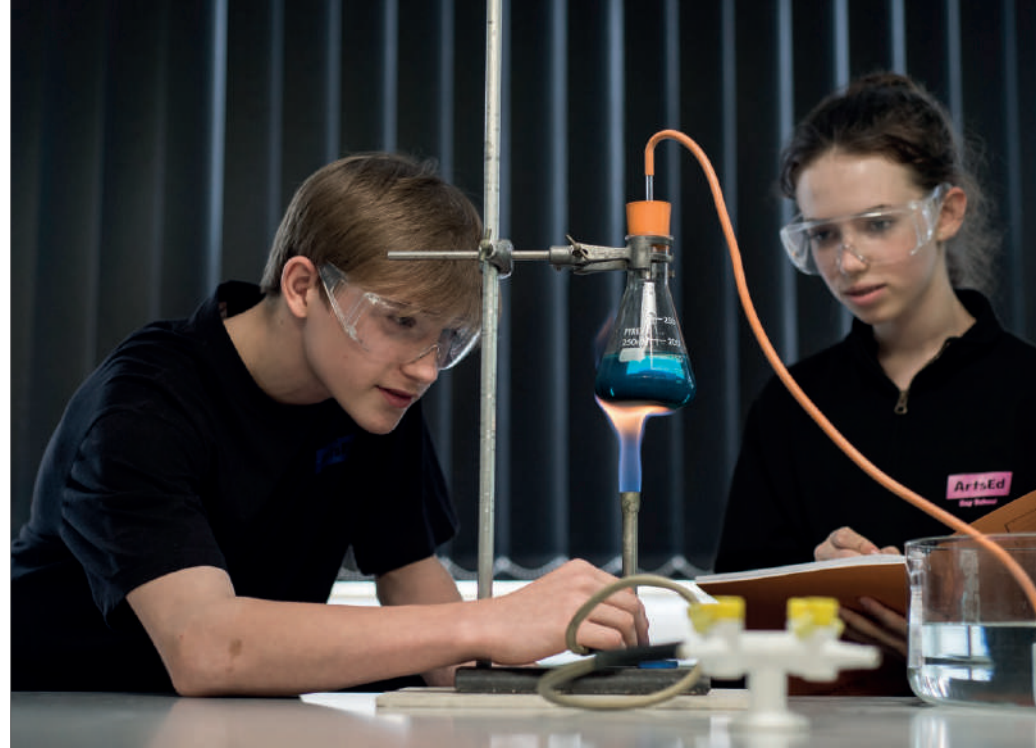
Our aim is for each pupil to be engaged and enthused in every maths lesson. We do this by identifying and addressing the individual needs of each pupil and streaming from year 7. Maths topics are linked to the everyday, enabling pupils to relate to them as valuable skills for life.

Many of our pupils have been surprised to find that they have developed a passion for maths during their time at ArtsEd. We believe this is a result of our unique balance of time between vocational and academic subjects, creating an overall enthusiasm for learning.

Science

Our teaching encourages pupils to see how science plays an integral part in their everyday lives. Topics are explored in engaging ways, demonstrating how science explains much of the world around them and the impact that humans have upon it. The curriculum ensures that all pupils are offered the opportunity to achieve success, regardless of whether they go on to study Science.

Every year, pupils can take part in a major trip that helps to build on their knowledge of the living, material and physical world. In 2018 we visited Florida, including trips to NASA and the Kennedy Space Centre. Other regular outings closer to home include the Science Museum, Natural History Museum, and Holland Park Ecology Centre.



● ●
My daughter's maths grade has really shot up because of the brilliant teaching and small class sizes here.

● ●
Parent

English

English lessons aim to stimulate and enthuse pupils to develop essential analytical and evaluative skills that they can use in their everyday lives. Self-expression, both written and spoken, is enhanced through the study of texts that cover a range of historical, social and cultural contexts and lively debate and discussion about textual meaning is encouraged.

The studying of plays alongside literature, from Shakespeare through to modern day texts, teaches pupils how language shapes meaning and acts as a fundamental basis for theatre.

History

Learning how the past has shaped modern Britain, as well looking at major world events in the twentieth century, nurtures pupils curiosity and enthusiasm for history. They are encouraged to develop questioning, analysis and evaluation skills, all essential to the discipline and valuable in their development as thoughtful and informed citizens.

Learning extends beyond the classroom with visits to many local museums and places of historical interest such as Rochester Castle and the Imperial War Museum.



Geography

Geography inspires a lifelong curiosity about the world and its people. Pupils learn about current events, global and local, investigate people, places and resources and study natural and man-made environments.

All year groups enjoy regular trips to museums, rivers and field study centres. Recent visits have included Swanage, Slapton, and Walton-on-the-Naze. An international trip to the Bay of Naples is planned for 2019/20.

French

Our aim is simple, to nurture our pupil's confidence in their ability to understand and speak French. We do this by embracing the power of the arts to support everyone's learning.

French stories are used to bring French culture and history to life, alongside music and drama to increase engagement and integrate learning. In Year 7 we assume no prior knowledge of the language and every year we run a residential trip to Paris.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

● ●
I am delighted with my son's progress since he's been at ArtsEd. The small class sizes and the creative environment have really helped him thrive.



Parent

We encourage all of our pupils to get involved in activities that extend and complement their daily timetable. There are opportunities every day to take part in clubs and performance groups and we add to and enhance the options every term, building on the enthusiasms of our pupils and the teachers. The following are examples of the regular co-curricular activities that run alongside weekly booster sessions in all academic subjects:

Acting for Dancers, Dance for Actors, Debate Club, Film Appreciation Club, Junior Musical Theatre Company, Junior & Senior Choir, LGBTQ+ Club, Pupil Council, Samba Club, Science Club, Sports Club, Tap Classes.

Performance Opportunities

The academic year at ArtsEd is punctuated with exciting opportunities for pupils to showcase their talents. These include our Open Evenings, the Music Concert, Dance Show, Pupils Showcase and the Prize Giving Ceremony.

The venue for these is the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Theatre, a delightful proscenium arch theatre, run by our professional, in-house production team using state of the art sound and lighting equipment.

Other productions take place in our fully equipped studio spaces and include the Junior Musical, Evening of Dance, Live Lounge and the Choreographic Platform.

The standard of performances is always outstanding and family and friends are joined in the audience by the wider ArtsEd community, including ArtsEd Friends, neighbours and alumni.

Alongside the ArtsEd Youth Dance Company, external opportunities at which our acting pupils can showcase their talents include the Independent Schools Association Drama Festival. A competition won in the last two years by pupils from ArtsEd.



Destinations

Year 11 pupils can choose to continue their studies with ArtsEd, moving up to our internationally renowned Sixth Form. Many secure places at other leading sixth forms and colleges which have recently included Latymer, Twyford C of E School, Esher College, Urdang Academy and Northern Ballet School.

Governance

The overall governance of ArtsEd is conducted by the Board of Trustees, chaired by Kevin McGrath.

The Trustees are informed about day-to-day activities via regular Board and Sub-Committee meetings. The Day School and Sixth Form Governance Sub-Committee meet termly and regularly visit the school to monitor day to day activity, as well as attending public productions.

Trustees bring significant, appropriate experience and skills to bear in considering ArtEd's strategic direction, and by taking part in various Committees as part of their management obligations. A full list of trustees can be found on the website.

Admissions

Years 7 to 11

We audition everyone who applies to ArtsEd. Prospective pupils spend a day in the school with the other applicants, allowing them to get a taste of life here at the same time as we get to know them. Our staff are very warm and welcoming and make the day as enjoyable as possible.

We encourage all prospective students to attend our Open Evening or book a visit so you can see our current students in action, meet the staff and see our wonderful facilities.

We have two application deadlines for Year 7 entry in September 2020.

- Friday 29 November 2019 for auditions on Friday 13 December 2019
- Friday 31 January 2020 for auditions on Friday 14 February 2020

You can apply online and find more information at artsed.co.uk.

● ●
My audition day was really exciting. I met some really nice and kind pupils at ArtsEd. The teachers were amazing and made the day feel fun instead of frightening.

● ●
[Year 7 Pupil](#)



Auditions

Everyone takes part in:



Ice-breaking sessions



Written tests in English and Maths workshops



An interview with a senior member of staff



An individual audition



Vocational skills workshops

Audition Requirements

We will provide full audition details, including preparation tips, once a prospective pupil is registered. Candidates will need to prepare either a dance or drama audition piece. Pieces must fit the guidelines below.

All candidates will need to prepare a short song.

Dance

1 x two-minute dance piece

Accompaniment can be provided on a mobile phone.

Drama

1 x two-minute speech from a play

The character must be an appropriate playing age. Pupils must bring an additional copy of the text for the assessor.

Song

1 x short song

The song must be chosen from the list provided in the application pack. Songs can be accompanied by the pianist, on provision of a score

Shaping the Future

is a transformational £20m capital project which is vital to ensure ArtsEd retains its leading edge as a provider of world-class performing arts training. The first phase of this ten-year project was completed in November 2013 with the opening of the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Theatre, solely supported with a £3.5 million donation from the Foundation.

Shaping the Future

The second phase of Shaping the Future commenced in July 2019 with the new building scheduled to be handed over in autumn 2020.

This major expansion will see the currently empty courtyard space transformed, creating three storeys of new studios, classrooms and rehearsal spaces. The first floor of this development will be for the exclusive use of the Day School and Sixth Form pupils. In addition, the school will permanently take over four studios in the main building, currently used by degree students.

On completion, Day School and Sixth Form pupils will have exclusive use of the following additional spaces:

- 3 x dance and drama studios, bringing all classes on site
- 4 x new purpose-built classrooms
- Additional changing and toilet facilities plus improvements to existing facilities
- A new communal space in the heart of the building, bringing together pupils and students from across the schools

Fundraising is underway to raise the £5.5 million required to complete Shaping the Future. The final phase of the project will see the creation of a new theatre on the site of the current library.

Shaping the Future is essential in order to ensure that every talented young person who studies here enjoys the facilities that they deserve and that our exceptional teaching requires.



This ambitious capital project comes at a pivotal moment for ArtsEd as it celebrates 100 years of nurturing young talent. The School is a leading contributor to the UK's creative industries, internationally renowned for providing outstanding and contemporary training in the performing arts. Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has been a long-term supporter of ArtsEd, including providing financial scholarships for talented young people from diverse backgrounds who have gone on to successful careers in the industry. I am immensely proud to be the founding supporter of Shaping the Future, a project that will ensure ArtsEd remains a centre of excellence for many years to come.



Andrew Lloyd Webber
President



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.....
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The school's prospectus and website describe the broad principles on which the school operates and gives an indication of its history and ethos. Although believed correct at the time of publication, the prospectus and website are not part of any agreement between the parents and the school. If the parents wish to place specific reliance on a matter contained in the prospectus, website, or a statement made by a member of staff or a student during the course of a visit to the school or during a meeting relating to an application for a place, they should seek written confirmation of that matter before entering into this agreement.

